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## The American game cock; or The old-fashio



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# THE AMERICAN GAME COCK

— OR —

## THE OLD-FASHIONED GAME.

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A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON GAMES FOR  
THE AMATEUR.

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How to Breed Games and How to Heel, Feed  
and Train Cocks for the Pit.

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With Valuable Hints, Rules and Other Important Information  
from Experienced Breeders and Cockers.

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By C. L. FRANCISCO.

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Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged.

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SAYRE, PA.:  
GAME FOWL MONTHLY.  
1898.

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## PREFACE.

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In the publication of this little work on "The American Game Fowl, or the Old-Fashioned Game," the author from many years' experience as a breeder and publisher of the leading and favorite organ devoted to this class of sport (an instructive, interesting, practical journal, *The Game Fowl Monthly*, and associated with those of long years of experience with the Game Fowl culture), feels that he is giving to the amateur, breeder, fancier and cocker a book which they stand largely in need of. It has been prepared with great care and attention to all the minor and real details, and fully covers the ground of more information than any other, and is so compiled as to be easily understood, practical, useful and in short contains much information for lovers of the beautiful and gallant bird known as the "Old-Fashioned Game Fowl," containing as it does the best known rules for conditioning, heeling, treatment for all diseases and methods of mating, as well as a few chapters from the pens of those who are active today in the sport and are well-known. It is not intended to inform the old cocker or old breeder, but is simply compiled for the benefit of those who have not had experience and are seeking methods to follow out by practice.

## GAMES AND GAMENESS.

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Here we have a distinct family among the gallinaeous order, that is stated and distinct in this predominating feature—*gameness*, really the only thoroughbred among the whole feathered creation. We have here today the same noble characteristics, the same undaunted courage, the same majestic carriage, the same defiant bearing, and with all the same determined efforts even in the last gasp for life to retrieve the fallen fortunes of the day. This is susceptible of overwhelming proof, and if it is not a natural trait or a distinct gift of nature what then, may I ask, can it be? Not artificial, surely; if so, our forefathers from the time of Cæsar down to the present, were possessors of this one important feature in art, and have very successfully obliterated all trace of the mixture from the present age. There is no living specimen extant known at the present day that can be used as a cross on to Games where the progeny will retain this peculiar characteristic—a feature in games that can be followed back fully five hundred years before the Christian era, and wherein if a cross is made or any blood infused out-

side of the family itself this important distinctive feature is wholly lost. There is as much difference between a Gamester and a dunghill as between an eagle and a crow—a bulldog and a cur. A Game is not a dunghill, and the one thing is as plain to be seen as the other. There is a brilliancy of plumage, a clearness of feather and a certain boldness shown in a Game cock which a dunghill is a stranger to and does not possess.

True Pit Games and Cockers are the same today as one hundred years ago, when the nobility of the land gave the sport their hearty support, with possibly the simple difference that side by side with the horse and other blooded animals they have kept even pace, and in bone, sinew, plumage, size and carriage are much improved, while in courage the same undaunted spirit still remains; and never during the whole history of the Game Fowl has there been so much interest taken in them as at the present day, notwithstanding the law.

No doubt is given that nature exhausted will at last succumb; but the cry is at once made that the breeder is a fraud, that the name "game" is a misnomer, and that the fancy is lost, so the whole are condemned for the shortcomings of the few.

Some will tell you that any cock in good health that quits a battle, either by sulking or running away, is a rank dunghill. Now let us see how our theory agrees with this. Start out with a statement of facts—that there is no Game fowl living but what

can be made a dunghill, and this can be accomplished in various ways, the most common one being that of poor walking, or not walking out at all.

On this subject much can be said and vary as much if not more than on any one subject pertaining to the Game fowl. Most writers as they touch on this subject appear to handle it as if it were red hot, and do not drive straight at the point in the subject, fearing that public opinion would be against them. Others go at the facts as if they thought just as they write, that a Game cock would never show any signs of quitting. Just here is where we differ in expressing our opinion, as we believe there is not a strain of fowls bred that in poor health will stand extreme cutting and repeat in the line some give their fowl.

We believe that there are certain periods during the moulting season that any Game cock can be made to run, while sometimes it takes a large lot of severe punishment. In some cases the fever is very high while moulting and causes the flesh to be very sore.

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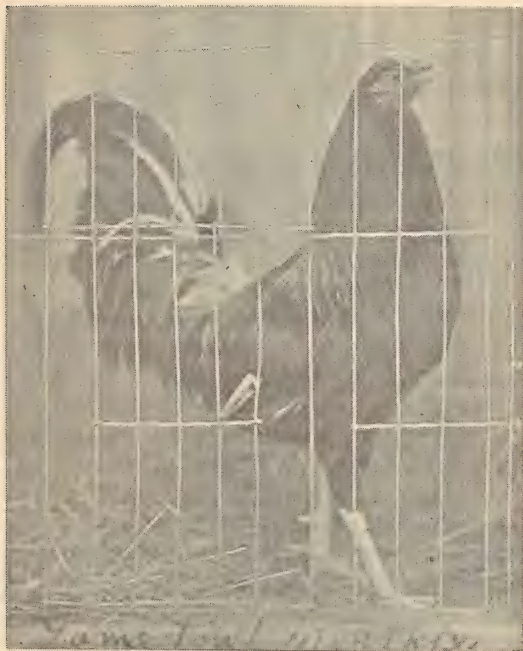
### TYPICAL PIT COCK.

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On the next page appears a true likeness of the Old-Fashioned Game Cock. Known as he was, then as now the only true specimen of *Game*. He is now well known as the American Game Cock, and after him we name this book.







OLD ENGLISH GAME COCK.

### THE OLD ENGLISH GAME FOWL.

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As to the origin of the breed, that, it is believed, is buried in the dim vista of the past, but suffice it is, that as far back as we can trace, history and historians speak most emphatically on the merits of the Game Fowl as he was (as is now in some lands), the embodiment of everything that is grand and majestic amongst our domestic poultry, quite in contradiction to the bird that is now seen in the modern show pen, this latter being a mere caricature of the finest and noblest fowl of the poultry world. To the fancier they offer the greatest attraction, there being such a selection of colors to choose from, and the type is so fixed that with ordinary care the race may be perpetuated for all time, and no matter what color their admirers have a special weakness for, the bird is still the same.

Many of the very oldest works on the breed, and it would astound our present-day fanciers to know to what a state of perfection the breed was brought, in the early part of this century, even the dark and light shades of the one color being kept religiously apart. At the time mentioned, on some of the establishments kept for breeding these birds, it was a frequent occurrence to breed upwards of a thousand cocks alone each year, kept ostensibly for the one purpose, that of sport and sport only, called by

some writers royal sport, patronized as it was in those days, and even later, by the very highest personages in the land, even kings, nobles, bishops, doctors and laymen, all taking a keen interest in the glories of the cock pit. This has been written against, on many occasions, but to an intelligent observer I would ask, "Where does the difference come in between the flogging and spurring of that noblest of all animals, the horse, to win a race, and the placing of two cocks, pitted equally against one another?" The latter fight instinctively, with a seeming affinity between them, to fight to the bitter end; with the Darwinian theory, "the survival of the fittest," this agrees *in toto*.

It is worthy of more than passing mention, touching on the prominent characteristics of the breed, that in the days of Themistocles, the renowned Athenian general, he it was who instituted a public festival, held annually at the theatre, where the young men were compelled to attend and learn a lesson in courage, by witnessing the fighting of cocks. Even the most egotistical of our Luther Day Saints would not cast a reflection on the character of this ancient hero as to his not being wise, most wise, in his generation.

To the Romans also must be credited the fact that they thoroughly appreciated the sport of cock fighting. At that time the breed was held sacred, and on account of their extreme watchfulness, sublime and dauntless courage, they were dedicated to Ap-



pollo, to Mercury, to Æsculapius, and to Mars, and they handed down these traditions to the inhabitants of Great Britain, who, to give them credit, have carried their instructions out to the letter, and in a great measure modelled their own national character, combining pluck, endurance and perseverance, no matter what the odds, in producing the British race of today, one which has given us a Drake, a Nelson, a Wellington, names covered with glory, to be handed down to posterity.

In the palmy days of King Henry, VIII., the cock pits at Whitehall, (England) and at Westminster (England) were as much an institution as the theatre of the present time. As a few descriptive remarks will perhaps convey in some slight degree to our young fanciers in embryo, the Game Fowl as he should be, I subjoin the following : The cock, beak big, crooked, hawk-like, pointed, rather short, a long beak, especially underneath, lacks holding power ; eye large, fearless, bold, quick and fiery ; head small and tapered, throat and skin fine quality, loose and flexible, a small throat and skin causes difficulty in breathing when in violent exercise ; neck large boned, round, strong and of good length ; back short, broad across the shoulders, and tapering towards the tail ; breast broad, straight, full and prominent, the pectoral muscles being well developed, giving power to the wings ; wings large and long ; quills powerful and strong ; tail large and spread ; belly small and tight ; thighs very short, round and

muscular; legs strong, clean-boned, not round or gunning like other fowls, nor too upright, nor too wide apart, but parallel with the body, well bent at the hocks, which feature is important; spurs small, and set very low down; feet flat, thin, spreading, long taper; toes and nails, the hind toe extending straight back and flat on the ground, not twisted sideways or duckfooted; plumage, the feathers strong, hard, close, sound, glossy and sufficient; carriage bold, smart, the movement quick and graceful, proud and sprightly, as if ready for any emergency; handling clever; flesh firm, but corky and light, mellow and warm, with strong contraction of the wings and legs. The hen should resemble the cock at all points, making allowance for difference in sex; she should be wide in the back, short-legged, have a small comb, wattles, etc., be strong, yet clean and blood-like in feet and legs, strong beak, short wide body, her wings well clipped, almost meeting beneath the tail, her movements should be quick and alert, and she should have a neat and gamey appearance, and if spurred, so much the better, she should match the cock in eye, beak, legs and color.

To look upon the cobby, compact, yet symmetrical form of the birds, with such grand spreading tails and flowing hackles, the gallantry of the cocks, with their bold and fearless eyes, makes a picture that artists have painted, and induced poets to burst into song.



### COCKING.

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That sport in general has received a severe check during recent years, more especially in those branches where pluck and endurance are the predominant qualities, will be admitted on all sides, and that little regard appears to have been paid to the feeling of the English nation at large, essentially a sporting one, when the question of supporting one particular amusement has been under consideration, will, I think, be generally conceded. That this theory is not an Utopian one the rejection by the House of Lords of the Pigeon Shooting Bill, rushed through the Commons, goes far to prove, and it certainly behooves those interested in the far more important issue of boxing not to let the grass grow under their feet, or, assuredly one day, perhaps not far distant, the opponents of the art of self-defense will find as

their case may be their occupation or recreation gone. Whether the cockers of fifty years ago were apathetic, or whether an overwhelming wave of sentimentality passed over the country at that time I will not stay to inquire, but that the practice of their favorite sport, which had flourished, certainly, for the space of 2,300 years, probably much longer, was, once more, decreed illegal, can be proved by turning up the Act of Parliament bearing on the subject. Englishmen, in spite of steam and electricity, have a regard for the manners and habits of their ancestors (I am writing of Englishmen who have ancestors, not of mere upstarts and levellers), and it cannot, therefore, be matter for surprise that a selected few still cling to the Royal sport of cock-fighting. A character in "The Cornish Comedy," written by George Powell, and acted at Dorset Garden Theatre, A. D. 1696, says:—"What is a gentleman without his recreations? With them we endeavor to pass away that time which otherwise would lie heavily upon our hands. Hawks, hounds, setting dogs, and cocks are the true marks of a country gentleman." The same character goes on to state that his cocks "are true cocks of the game," on which he never risks less than £100 or £200 a battle. The author of the question, still frequently quoted, regarding a gentleman and his recreations, was, no doubt, well qualified to judge of the tastes that most distinguished a country squire in the age of which he wrote, and Struit--no admirer of fight-



ing in any shape or form, who undertook to describe the sports and pastimes of the English a hundred years after "The Cornish Comedy" was written--feels compelled to admit, when alluding to a proclamation against cocking by Edward III. in the year 1366, that, notwithstanding it was thus degraded and discountenanced, it still maintained its popularity, and, in defiance of all temporary opposition, has descended to the modern times.

In dedicating the "Royal Pastime of Cocking," the most complete work hitherto published on the subject of this enthralling sport, to a descendant of Sir T. Urquhart, that valiant old cocker, who, as he expired on the fatal field of Naseby, compared himself to a good cock dying in the service of his master, the author, R. H., who wrote in 1709, makes use of the following words:--"I have also proved cocking to be both ancient and honorable, and to the present age (if rightly made use of) greatly profitable, and have plainly laid open the malice and ignorance of all such as endeavor to villify and bespatter it, showing the weakness of their arguments and true motives that engage them to speak against cocking." What R. H. wrote in the reign of Queen Anne was but a reiteration of the opinions expressed one hundred and fifty years before by Roger Ascham, the friend and tutor of Lady Jane Grey, and by Gervaise Markham, who flourished in the time of James I. On the score of antiquity, no one can gainsay the fact that "the sod" takes precedence of "the



SPANISH GAME COCK.

turf," for, though search be made through all the records of Merrie England, the adopted home of the thoroughbred horse, nowhere can it be proved that racing held a place among the sports of people prior to the establishment early in the seventh century of the meetings at Garierly, Enfield and Croydon. Chester may be an exception, but, as mentioned hereafter, cocking was ever the favorite pursuit of the dwellers by the Dee. On the other hand, the ancient Greeks and Romans indulged in cockfighting long before the Christian era. CDLXXI (*Anno Mundi*) is generally quoted as the year of its introduction from Athens into Rome, and that the cock was an object of veneration before even the Greeks and Romans held sway over the civilized world the Bible teaches and recent discoveries prove. The Babylonian God, Nergal, was worshipped in the form of a cock (I do not argue that he was a "trimmed" one), who, as the Rabbins said, ushers in the morn, and that this practice was universal the discoveries of Layard abundantly show. In particular, there is a cylinder discovered by him during his visit to Babylon, and now deposited in the British Museum, on which is represented a priest in sacrificial attire, standing beside an altar on which a cock is placed. On an agate stone also a priest is represented standing before a cock. In Rome cocking was regarded partly as a religious, partly as a political institution, and, strange as it may appear, the last, or nearly, so great main ever fought in Eng-

land was opposed on political grounds. I need scarcely say that the instigators of the opposition were radicals. They, to thwart the late John Frail, and simply to avenge a party defeat, in or about 1857 gave information as to the progress of a two days' main at Shrewsbury, the stakes for which were held by that game old Tory agent.

To revert, however, to the antiquity of the sport in England, it can be proved beyond doubt (see Fritz Stephens' "description of London") that in the reign of Henry II. Shrove Tuesday was set apart as a day on which both schoolboys and their masters, untrammelled by laws and ordinances, showed their cocks in friendly rivalry throughout the length of the land. From the days of that impetuous monarch to those of bluff King Hal, cockers had their reverses, as before mentioned. Edward III. neglected the teachings of the ancients who exhibited mains of cocks before their soldiers are engaging in battle, and prohibited their favorite pastime, but on the accession of Henry VII., who possibly from the Welsh blood flowing in his veins, was devoted to it, cocking resumed its former position, and to accommodate its patrons, the pit in Whitehall was constructed by him, Stow informs us, "out of certain old tenements." James I. was a lover of the game, and nothing to the detriment of the sport occurred until the general abolition of amusements by Cromwell, who in 1654 promulgated an edict against it. From a careful perusal of the edict in question, I

am strongly inclined to believe that the so-called Protector was actuated in his prohibition from fear of Royalists meetings being held under the figure of cock-matches, and not from any ill feeling towards cocking itself. Whatever might have been his real intention it boots little to inquire, for within six years of the date of this declaration Oliver's resolutions were rescinded. With the restoration, the turf and the sod resumed new leases of life, and both at Newmarket and at the Royal Cockpit in St. James' Park effect was given to the natural impulse of Englishmen. Mains were fought by day and by night between the selected cocks of different countries, and although, as in racing, the records previous to the middle of the last century were not preserved, there is every reason to believe that the strains of blood in cocks were handed down in as pure a state as in the case of horses, from the cockers of the "Merry Monarch's" time to those of the Victorian era. Of the Royal Cockpit nothing now remains, the steps leading from Queen street to St. James' Park alone telling by their name, "the Cockpit steps," where the site of the historic rendezvous was. It is, however, easy for the lover of antiquities, aided by the characters drawn for him by Sadwell, and the description of the Newmarket pit by Macauley, who has left on record the fact that "on rainy days the cockpit was encircled by stars and blue ribbons," to picture to himself the groups that frequented it for the purpose of watching the exertions of the best



birds in Europe; I will not say in the world, in the case I may strike the susceptibles of the lovers of Indian Game, to which breed may, without question, be accorded, if only on the ground of antiquity, most honorable mention. A curious old work on the subject gives the following description of the Cockpit Royal:—"It is situated on the south of St. James' Park, from which it has its entrance, and was erected in the reign of Charles II. who, having been himself fond of the sport, is said to have frequently honored it with his presence when matches were made and fought amongst his nobles. It is the only place where long mains and great "Subscription Matches" are fought in the metropolis, some of which are for considerable sums between opulent individuals, who procure their cocks from different parts of the country, and others (particularly of the subscription matches) by many members on each side, who breed their cocks in distant counties, but fight them only in town, of which description many matches are annually fought during all the spring months, when both stags and cocks are in the finest feather and highest perfection. The cockpit is circular and completely surrounded with seats six tiers deep, exclusive of a rail, with standing room all around the summit of the uppermost seat, forming in the whole a perfect ampitheatre. The central circle, upon which the cocks fight, is a raised mound of earth, surrounded with boarding, about twenty feet in diameter, and should according to the tech-

nical term of the sport be covered with a fine green turf, denominated sod, in conformity with the general acception of the word in the sporting world, whereby 'the-sod' is implied cocking. In all mains or matches fought in the country part of the kingdom cocks invariably fight upon the sod, but as it is an article difficult to obtain in the metropolis, and would be inconvenient and inapplicable during hard frosty weather, when many matches are fought, matting upon the surface is substituted in its stead. On each side the circular mound, at its extremity, and exactly opposite to each other, are two small seats for the setters-to, who retire to those seats during the long fighting, or when ordered by the betters and spectators so to do. Directly over the center is suspended from the dome by a chain a very large circular branch containing a great number of candles, affording a profusion of light—for nearly all the matches fought here are very unnaturally decided by night, the company going to pit at six o'clock in the evening. At the hour previously agreed on, the bags containing the cocks are brought into the pit by the feeders, or whoever they may appoint; they are there received by the setters-to, whose qualifications depend upon a quick eye, a light hand and an agile heel, without the whole of which celebrity can never be acquired in their way. The cocks being taken from the bags, are most scrupulously compared in feather and marks with the original description entered in the match bill on the day of

weighing. This ceremony gone through, the feeders retire from the center of the pit and the setters-to are then the sole possessors, with the cocks in hand. In this state they are shown to each other, beak to beak, and if they show fight are tossed upon the mat, and the battle begins."

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### COCKING IN CUMBERLAND.

Among the papers read at the meeting of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Archæological Society at Ulverston in May, 1888, was one by Mr. Ferguson on "Cocking," in which the Worshipful Chancellor gave some interesting particulars concerning the early history and latter-day pursuit of this ancient pastime. The fact that almost every year, about Easter time, assemblages of surreptitious cockfighters are pounced upon by the police, indicates that the cruel sport still presents a strange fascination for certain classes of the community, who persist in indulging in their favorite though forbid den pleasure, in spite of all efforts of the law to put it down. Chancellor Ferguson, in his interesting paper, does not trouble to go into the ancient history of cock fighting among the Lydians, the Dardanians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Chinese, the Malaysians and the Persians. He confines his researches to cockfighting in this country, and mainly in the country of Cumberland. The earliest treatise on cockfighting that he has found is "The Complete

Gamester" (1674), in which it is dealt with in conjunction with "The Mysteries of Riding, Racing, Archery;" and in an edition of "Hoyle's Games," dated 1814, there is an "Essay on Game cocks," with the "Rules to be Observed at the Royal Cockpit." At that time there was a cockpit royal in St. James' Park, but it was pulled down about 1824, on Christ's Hospital refusing to renew the lease to "a building devoted to cruelty," and a more commodious cockpit was built in Tufton street, where dog fights also took place, and badgers, and bears were baited. An idea of the motley company to be seen at these places may be gathered from Hogarth's picture of the cockpit at Newmarket. It embraced peers and pickpockets, butchers and jockeys, rat-catchers and gentlemen, and gamblers of every description. The Royal Cockpit in Tufton street was one of the resorts of Jerry Hawthorn and his elegant friend, Corinthian Tom, and one of Cruikshank's pictures of Pierce Egan's "Life in London" displays those worthies backing a cock-feeder named Tommy the Sweep; while another depicts them "sporting their blunt" on "the phenomenon monkey, Jacco Macacco, in his great fight with the twenty pound dog." In both Hogarth's and Cruikshank's pictures the birds fight on a raised circular platform, in the center of the building. On this are the feeders, or setters. Part of the spectators crowd around the platform, while others are accommodated in a gallery, and in Hogarth's picture the shadow of a man

suspended from the ceiling in a basket, shows the penalty imposed on those who did not pay their "debts" of honor,"—their bets on a cockfight. The present prevalent opinion as to the heathenishness and barbarity of cockfighting had little sanction in those days. It had been a boy's amusement in ancient Rome, and it was in many instances in this country the sanctioned Shrove Tuesday sport of public schools, the master receiving on the occasion a small tax from the boys under the name of "cock-penny." Upon this point the Chancellor has collected some curious information. From one of his extracts (Hutchins' "History and Antiquities of Dorset") we gather that the diversion was continued in many schools of this kingdom, and in that of Wimborne in particular, until the beginning of the present century. The school was the cockpit, and the master was the controller and director of the sport. He presided and drew the names of the boys in pairs, out of a hat, much after the fashion in which the names of wrestlers are drawn, and the boys produced and fought their respective birds in rounds until only one of the whole was left alive, "the owner of which was distinguished by the glorious name of victor." Many other privileges attached to the victor, such as "never to be subjected himself during the whole of Lent to the disgrace of flagellation; but what was still more, when any other boy was on the point of undergoing that punishment, he was at liberty, if he pleased, to exempt him from it



by only clapping his hat on the culprit's posteriors, and thereby saving him from the lash." It was not only in Dorset that such customs prevailed. In Carlisle's "Endowed Grammer Schools" it is mentioned that at Wreay, in Cumberland, a silver bell (the equivalent of our more modern "challenge cup") was given by Mr. Graham, a Cavalier, in 1655, "to be fought for annually on Shrove Tuesday by cocks." The boys at the school selected two of their number as captains, and on Shrove Tuesday, after an early dinner, the two captains, attended by their friends and school-fellows, who were distinguished by blue and red ribbons, marched in procession to the village green, when each produced three cocks, and the bell was appended to the hat of the victor, in which manner it was handed down from one successful captain to another, until about the close of the last century when the 'boys' cockfight on Shrove Tuesday was suspended by Wreay Hunt. The pear-shaped prize bell, weighing about an ounce and a half, was in the possession of Mr. Arlosh, of Woodside, until 1872, when it was lost or stolen. Mr. Ferguson thinks the chronicler was in error in supposing that public cockfighting at Wreay [stopped in 1790. It was not suppressed until 1836, and "I fancy." adds the Chancellor, "it goes on now on the sly." At Bromfield about the same time a similar custom prevailed, in association with the "barring out" of the master, one of the articles of capitulation being that the boys should have the privilege of im-

mediately celebrating certain games of long standing, "namely, a football match and a cockfight. The Rev. Jonathan Boucher, from whom the description of these proceedings is derived, concludes his chronicles with a half concealed sigh of regret that "it was never the fortune of the writer of this account to *bear the bell*, but he well remembers when he gazed at it with hardly less admiration than in other times others contemplated crowns and sceptres." The custom of cockfighting was not only practiced in England, where, in the time of Elizabeth, masters were empowered to "take the profits of all such cockfights and potations as are commonly used in schools," but it also prevailed in Scotland, where so late as 1790 "cockfight dues" at Applecross, in Ross-shire, were "equal to one quarter's payment for each scholar."

"But cockfighting," remarks Mr. Ferguson, "had patrons of higher rank than dominies and their pupils. The cockpit at Westminster was erected by Henry VIII., and James I. was passionately fond of the sport. Foreign monarchs on their visits to this country were taken to see cockfights. King Christian VII. of Denmark visited Newmarket cockpit in 1668 and received an address, which mentioned that his grandfather had honored the same cockpit with his presence in 1728, and had "seemed highly pleased with the courage of the British cocks." The address concluded with the inspiration, "May your Majesty's reign be long and happy, and when the infirm-

ities of nature shall pall the relish of enjoyment, may you without pain retire to the mansions of eternal bliss (like him) replete with age and glory !" But if cockfighting had royal patrons at Newmarket and Westminster, in Cumberland it might claim to be called an "episcopal diversion." A cockpit existed and still exists at Rose Castle, the place of the Bishop of Carlisle, and in it many mains must have been fought between the famous "black red" cocks of the Bishop's neighbors at Dalston, and the "greys" of his neighbors at Caldbeck. The Chancellor has not been able to find any evidence of any Bishop Carlisle being actually present, still, "newspaper reporters were few in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and chaplains discreet." Perhaps it may be added that Bishop's chancellors are reticent. The cockpit at Rose is some distance from the castle, but they occupied in some places even more unseemly places than the episcopal *pleasaunces*. They were frequently close to the church, if not actually in the church yard, and the cocks were fought on Sundays, notably at Bromfield and Burgh by Sands. The late Mr. Joseph Ferguson used to tell how, as a boy, he had heard in church at Burgh by Sands the preacher's voice drowned by the vociferations of the "gentlemen of the sod," as the cockers were called, crying the odds. To do them justice they generally waited until the preacher was finished, but if he was on any occasion extra long-winded their patience fell short and they commenced.

Walker, in his history of Penrith, says the cockpit in that town was on the south side of the churchyard, "and on one occasion when the clergyman was reading the burial service his voice was totally drowned by loud cheers from the pits in token of the victory of the favorite cock." This was not peculiar to the north of England, as Mr. Ferguson showed by an extract from a paper by a Herefordshire incumbent, who, contrasting the degeneracy of the present time, exclaims, "Oh! people did come to church in them days!" Perhaps, suggests Mr. Ferguson, the "gentlemen of the sod," who fought their mains on Sunday in a churchyard, may have had some qualms of conscience to gulp down. If any such existed at Alston, in Cumberland, the maxim of the end justifying the means would be used for their alleviation for their Prayer Books, with "inscription suitable to the occasion," (whatever those might be) were the prizes for the winners of mains on Shrove Tuesday; but none of these trophies can be found now, as the Governors of Greenwich Hospital carried off as curiosities all they could find. Such a prize system might have afforded some excuse to the old woman at Houghton, near Carlisle, who on one occasion admitted "she had gone down upon her bended knees" and prayed that a certain cock of her feeding might win at Newcastle.

The citizens of Carlisle, with the example before them of a cockpit at Rose Castle, were by no means behind in their devotion to the sport, as the minutes

of the Town Council in 1861 prove, when they ordered sums of money to be given in "cock-plates," or "plates to be fought for by cocks,"—probably challenge plates to replace older ones, which had disappeared after the great siege of 1644, and history relates little or nothing of the cockfights that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were waged in the Border City. But in the eighteenth century cockfighting had become everywhere an established concomitant of horse-racing, as Mr. Ferguson showed by several extracts and references to racing calendars and other chronicles of the times. In 1783, during the races, a main of cocks was fought between the Earl of Surrey and A. R. Bowes, Esq., for ten guineas a battle and one hundred guineas the main, which was won by the latter. The Earl of Surrey, who was M. P. for Carlisle in 1780, and afterwards became Duke of Norfolk, was so slovenly in his dress that on one occasion he was taken at the royal cockpit for a butcher, and his bets refused. It is said that the Earl of Surrey and Sir James Lowther in 1785 erected the cockpit which recently, until 1886, stood in a court on the west side of Lowther street, Carlisle. As it is so odd that these two political opponents should combine to do anything, Mr. Ferguson suggests that they each give a handsome subscription "by way of influencing the cockfighting interest at some elections." That cockpit was octagonal, forty feet in diameter, the walls twelve feet high, and it was forty-five feet in height to the



top of the octagonal roof. In 1829 it was occupied by Messrs. Burgess and Hayton as a brass and iron foundry, and afterwards was well known as Dand's smithy. As an illustration of the sport, Mr. Ferguson exhibited a Game cock called Achilles, trimmed and spurred for fighting, and some of the spurs used in cockfighting. The spur was a single polished spike or goad of silver or steel, about an inch and a half long, slightly curved, having a ring which fitted upon the stump of the natural spur and was provided with a leather which was lashed around the bird's leg: but he said there were spurs sold now as "cock spurs," three inches in length, which "would not have been tolerated in a respectable cockpit." There was great art in putting on the spurs. The Game cock's object in fighting is to seize his foe by the hackle, hold him down, and to spur him on the head. To do this he must kick or spur close past his own head, and hence if the spur be not set at the proper angle is apt to dig it into his own head. Much has been said about the additional cruelty of fighting cocks in artificial spurs, but Chancellor Ferguson thinks this is an injustice, because silver spurs such as he exhibited inflicted clean wounds which would heal in three or four days, whereas the natural spur inflicted bruised wounds, which are slow to heal. The silver spur, too, kills at once if it enters the brain, while the natural spur bruises and inflicts a lingering death. The Game cock's habit of seizing his adversary by the hackle is the reason

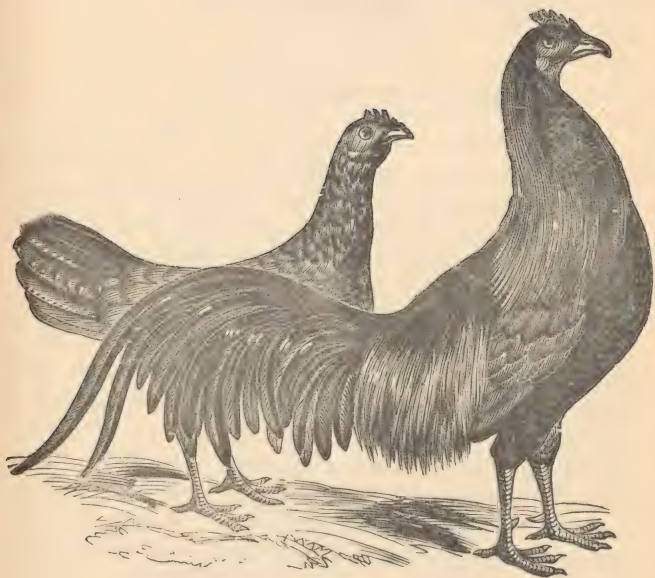
why it was always stipulated that cocks were to fight "with a fair hackle,"—that is, it must not be so trimmed away as to afford no hold.

Cockfighting was made a misdemeanor in 1835, but it was hard to kill. There was a main fought at Raffles in 1842, the "setters" being "Dick" and "Davy;" there was another at the Dandie Dinmont in 1846, a coach and pair taking the sportsmen out from Carlisle, "Dick, the Daisy," being one of the "setters" on that occasion; and within the last ten years, Mr. Ferguson states, a gentlemen in Carlisle (now dead) kept his cocks in a sodaed attic in his house and fought them within the city; while in Newcastle a well-known knight, alderman and magistrate, who died in 1871, had a cockpit at the back of his house where frequent fights took place, and one of my Lords, the Queen's Jnstices, was a frequent spectator. "Cocking," adds the Chancellor, "goes on to this day to a great extent in the northern counties, but I must not say where." A local patron of the sport in the time of Dick Bailey (Dick died about twenty years ago) has furnished Mr. Ferguson with some interesting particulars of the training of cocks for battle. In a letter dated April of this year he says:

"Now these cocks were taken from their walks say to-day, Friday, and fought about Monday or Tuesday week. Say the cock was five pounds weight, or a little under; at the time he was taken up he would fight four pounds four ounces or so. On the

first part of their training was to cut a little of their wings and tail, give them some tea to drink until, say Tuesday; cut their spurs short, and spar them every day with small boxing gloves tied on their heels. On Tuesday they got their medicine--the very best Turkish rhubarb and magnesia, about the thickness of your first finger, in fact, more than would quickly operate on you or me; next day senna tea again and sparring. They get very much reduced on Friday--all the fat out of them; after that give them new milk and bread made of eggs, loaf sugar, etc., in fact everything that is good--the very best malt barley and so on. You would be astonished how they thrive each day after. For the old cockpit they used to feed at different public houses; one was in Pack Horse Lane, another in the Castle Lane, in fact all the lanes in English street, Carlisle. They fought single battles for £5 or £10 and what they called four mains, that is four cocks; of course the winner had to get two bottles.

"In Cumberland the old connection between education and cock-fighting is not yet wholly severed," remarked Mr. Ferguson in concluding his interesting paper, "the seal of the Dalson School Board displays a fighting cock--a Dalson 'black red'--but they omitted the ringing motto, 'While I live I crow.'"



MALACCA GAME FOWLS



REGULATION HEEL.

### THE ART OF COCKFIGHTING.

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In the middle of the eighteenth century Bourne called out against cockfighting as "a heathenish mode of diversion, which ought certainly to be confined to barbarous nations." By that time it had grown to be a hideous performance, such as we still see it practiced in the "sporting pictures" of a hundred years ago, where the birds, provided with long steel spurs, stab one another to death in a pit, surrounded by a ring of leering old gentlemen in boots and breeches. But, difficult as it may be to realize the fact, in earlier times this was a pastime which shocked nobody, and really was much less horrible than the Georgian tradition presupposes.

Excellent old Gervase Markham, writing in the reign of James I., says: "There is no pleasure more noble, delightful or void of cozenage and deceit than this pleasure of cocking is," and it was cultivated, with a perfectly clear conscience, by the first gentlemen of England. So important a place did cockfighting take among the amusements of the age, that certain birds were as famous, by name, as



any race-horse is today, and Ladas himself is not a more universal celebrity than were, about sixteen hundred and ten, the two celebrated cocks Noble and Grissell, whose names are handed down to us as those of "the two famousest cocks that ever fought." But perhaps a still wider reputation was enjoyed by a certain hen, whose name was Jinks, who became the mother of so many brilliant fighters that she was regarded at last with a sort of superstitious awe.

Extreme care was taken from the moment that the egg was laid to insure the health of what might turn out to be a valuable fighter. At a month old the young birds were censed every morning with burning rosemary or pennyroyal, and then taken for a constitutional on a grass plot. Directly the comb appeared it was cut away and the scar constantly rubbed with butter. If the chicken crowed too soon he was cast out, for a good fighter never raised his voice till late in life. When a promising bird had been selected no pains were spared with him; he was given strange and elaborate foods—cheese paring, chopped leeks, toast sopped in wine. In short, no racer of our day is nourished and guarded more delicately by his fortunate owner.

The professional cockmasters preserved a great mystery about the dieting and lodging of a cock during the days which preceded a battle. Gervase Markham calls this "a secret never yet divulged, but kept close in the breasts of some few." Every-

thing was believed to depend on these matters, and the tricks of the trade were jealously guarded. No doubt different cockmasters had different panaccas. The training exercise, however, was less secret. The bird was taken out of his pen after his morning meal and a pair of "hots," soft padded rolls of leather, were carefully fastened over the spurs. Another cock similarly protected was brought out, and the two birds, being set on a lawn of fine turf, were encouraged to fight and buffet one another until the prize cock showed signs of weariness. He was then taken up, deprived of his "hots" and buried in a basket of sweet straw, packed around him in such a way that he could scarcely stir, "and so shall he strew and sweat until the evening." This basket was called the "stove," and before the cock was put into it he was made to swallow a lump of chopped rosemary and pounded barley sugar mixed in butter.

Some amateurs liked to put their fighting cocks into a cock-bag, but this was not held to be so officacious as a "stove," because the air could not pass so freely through it. All the next day the cock rested, and on the following morning the cock-master took him into a green inclosure. Then, putting him down on the turf, and holding some ordinary "dunghill" cock in his arms, the master showed it to him, ran from him, enticed him to follow, and occasionally allowed him to get a stroke at the dunghill bird. When thoroughly heated with this

pastime, the fighter was once more stuffed with butter of rosemary and then stoved in the basket of straw till the evening. This kind of training went on for six weeks, which was considered the proper time for training a cock, the last three days being spent in absolute rest and fasting, so that it was a fresh and hungry bird that was brought out at length into the pit. Now came the exercise of the real art of cockfighting--the proper relation of the fighters.

None of the incidental refinements which made eighteenth-century cockfighting so cruel had occurred to the simplicity of the seventeenth. No additions were made to the armor of the birds--no metal spurs or needles fixed to their vigorous legs. All that was done was to clear decks for fighting--to cut off the long feathers of the neck and tails, to clip the wings, to smooth and sharpen the beak and heels with a knife. It was important to leave no feathers on the crown of the head for the foe to take hold of, and then, after a final ceremony, when the cock-master had licked the head and eyes of the champion all over with his tongue, the bird was turned into the pit to try his fortune. After the battle was over each combatant was tenderly taken up and his wounds were scoured. He was then put into his basket to recover, so wrapped in flannel and pressed down with straw that he could scarcely breathe, and thus left motionless for the night.--  
*From the Realm.*



EXHIBITION GAME.



PIT GAME.

## THE TWO KINDS.

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### EXHIBITION AND PIT.

The Game fowls of America may be distinctly divided into two classes—Pit or True Game birds; second, the Standard or Exhibition Games.

Pit Games, as the name implies, are raised mostly for the pit, and consequently are bred with the qualities best adapted to this use, viz:—gameness, activity, endurance and muscle. Since the flesh or meat which we eat is the muscular part of the chicken's carcass, that fowl which is the most muscular has the finest quality of flesh, and proportionately the

most of it. For this reason Pit Games excell all other chickens for table use. But the fancier who buys them for this purpose may not know that pit birds are not bred to color.

A person not well informed in chicken lore, wishing some extra fine fighting stock, looks through the columns of a poultry journal and notes those breeders who won the prizes on Standard Games at the leading shows; naturally supposing that since the highest scoring birds of other breeds are in their respective qualities the best, so also the prize winning Standard Games must excel as fighting birds.

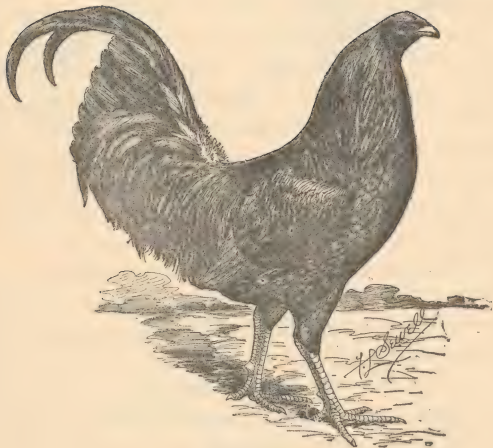
Now, to the amateur readers of this book let us say a few words. Find out well what you want before you buy.

The Standard Games breed true to color, and their fanciers claim that in beauty and "stately bearing" they excel the pit birds; but they are not dead game and are neither constituted nor intended for pit use. The cock on the left shows well the characteristics of the class, viz.: upright carriage, long legs, long neck and head, small whip tail, extended wing-butts, short hackle, short and hard body feathers.

The other cock may be taken as a typical pit bird. Observe that he is low stationed and heavily feathered, with full hackle and tail, short head, and altogether stout in build, and above all he is dead game.

Color has but little to do with the Pit Game, and the name is of little use unless it is a distinguished strain long known under one name.





TYPICAL PIT GAME COCK.

## THE PIT GAME STANDARD.

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Standard for judging all varieties of the Game fowl which are not recognized by the "American Standard of Excellence."

### DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Color of legs or plumage not matching, when shown in pairs or trios; cocks or cockerels (in natural single combed) not dubbed; crooked backs, wry tails, duck feet or other natural deformity.

### SCALE OF POINTS.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Head .....  | 8     |
| Comb, Wattles and Earlobes.....                                   | 4     |
| Eyes.....   | 3     |
| Neck.....   | 10    |
| Back.....   | 8     |
| Breast and Body.....  | 12    |
| Wings.....  | 8     |
| Tail.....   | 12    |
| Legs and Feet.....  | 10    |
| Condition .....   | 5     |
| Handling (including Activity, Symmetry and General Appearance) .. | 20    |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 100   |

### THE COCK.

HEAD.—Broad and very strong at its junction with the neck. Beak, rather short, well curved, and strong at the base. All male birds, if naturally

single comb, to be neatly dubbed, and their combs free from warty excrescences. Combs, if not single, to be even and symmetrical in shape. Muff or beard, if any, to be short, wiry feathers. Tassels or crest, if any, to lie close to the head, and extend straight backward.

EYES.—Large and prominent, clear and bright, with a quick and fearless expression, and perfectly alike in color. Head, dark brown or black preferred.

NECK.—Rather long and nicely arched, the hackle composed of long feathers, and falling well over the shoulders.

BACK.—Rather short, broad across the shoulders and narrowing to the tail; the saddle feathers long and flowing.

BREAST AND BODY.—Breast, broad, very full and straight. Body rather short, very firm and muscular not soft or hollow on the sides, very broad at the shoulders, and tapering toward the tail.

WINGS.—Very long, strong and powerful, and not carried too close to the body.

TAIL.—Rather upright, full and expanded. Sickles feathers abundant, long and well curved. Main tail feathers abundant and fan-shaped, the quills hard and strong.

LEGS AND FEET.—Thighs, short and stout, hard and firm, and of medium sized bone, but very muscular. Shanks of medium size, clean and well apart, the scales smooth and close, and the spurs set on low. Feet strong and flat; the toes long and thin, straight

and spreading, and well furnished with strong nails; the hind toes set low on the feet, standing well backward and flat on the ground.

HANDLING.—The whole body to appear symmetrical, solid and very muscular; the bird active and eager to fight. The feathers not short, but glossy, firm and wiry, with good strong quills.

#### THE HEN.

HEAD.—Broad and short, but tapering and very neat in appearance. Beak, rather short, well curved, sharp at the point and stout at the base. Comb, if single, to be small and thin, low in front, evenly serrated and perfectly erect and straight; if not single, to be small, even and symmetrical in shape. Beard and crest, if any, to correspond with those of the cock.

EYES.—Large and prominent, clear and bright, with a quick and fearless expression, and perfectly alike in color. Red, dark brown or black preferred.

NECK.—Rather long and nicely arched, the hackle feathers abundant and long.

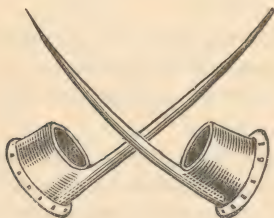
BACK.—Of medium length, broad across the shoulders and narrowing to the tail.

WINGS.—Rather upright, full and expanded; the feathers long and the quills hard and strong.

LEGS AND FEET.—Thighs, short and stout, hard and firm, and very muscular. Shanks of medium size, clean and strong; the scales smooth, and in color to match those of the cock when placed on exhibition. Feet, strong and flat; the toes long and

thin, straight and spreading, and well furnished with strong nails; the hind toes set low on the feet, and standing well backward.

HANDLING.—The whole body to appear symmetrical, solid and very muscular; the bird quick and active, and graceful in motion. The feather not short but firm and wiry, and in color to match those of the cock when placed on exhibition.







EXHIBITION GAME COCK.

### IDEAL PIT GAME.

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A good old-fashioned Game cock has eyes large and full, sparkling with brightness, boldness in appearance, possesses activeness, quick to observe a motion, and displays force in all his proportions. The general outline of a cock must be governed by the selection of your eye, but the usual type sought for is one thing throughout—a full well-developed bird of good station; the general type of body is cone-shaped, rather longer than thick, but not too extreme for body. The head should be fair size, not large or coarse, full and clean; eyes well set, not hollowed out at upper and lower bearings; the beak short, stout, well curved and pointed; the neck long, strong, well arched and good size at the junction of the head, well developed at the base or where it joins the body; the girth or breast large and full; broad, flat and deep full chest, tapering to the rump with breast bone close up to the saddle bone; shoulder broad and full; round back tapering smoothly to the rear; back medium length; thighs and legs large, smooth, strong and well put together; large bone and muscle, broad, thin feet, long claws; hind toe set well down; wings full, large and carried well up, tapering to rear and almost meeting at tips, not lying close; quills large and stiff; tail carried up-

right, not over back, full, well expanded, and quills large and stiff, with full, large, long sickle feathers, handsomely curved; the feathers of the body should possess a glossy appearance, and be strong and stiff to the touch. Bird should have a stately walk and an upright, easy carriage.

Hens should be well developed, large and active, having same general outline of head, beak and eyes of cock; body long and plump; broad, full tail; good carriage action and fearless; large legs of medium length; feet and claws long and flat, full of life.





DUCKWING GAME COCK.

## BREEDING STOCK.

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### HENS AND COCKS.

Hens are of little consequence, judging from the demand for pullets in preference to them. Of the numerous enquiries for high class breeders, not one in fifty wants hens, and this is the rock that has stranded many enthusiastic beginners. Such a line of breeding will deteriorate, rather than improve, applied to any class of stock.

The teaching of science and experience is that mature animals of all kinds will produce the best, strongest and most vigorous offspring; yet breeders seem to have gone crazy over pullet-breeding, ignoring the teachings of science, nature and common-sense. This is because pullets will usually lay more eggs than hens. How can any improvement come from such a practice?

Now long experience in breeding has taught the value of old hens as breeders. When one has proved to be valuable as a breeder, just keep her three or four years at least; and usually when chicks are raised that show signs of making superior birds, by tracing their origin it is found that they were hatched from eggs laid by hens. Our advice to beginners is



to be sure and have some good hens in their breeding yards, and mark their eggs and compare them with the stock from pullets, and see if we are not right.

We often find in the yards of some of our noted breeders an old hen, age unknown, only by a brief recollection of five or six years, feathers out of sorts, matched to a favorite cock, and the offspring are the high priced birds which prove themselves valuable. Good old birds can be relied upon for strong and healthy stags, rapid fighters and game to the core as long as they remain healthy.

It is asserted, and doubtless it is true, "that fowls transmit to their offspring the color of the sire or dam, and in exact ratio to the prepotency of each." And it must be apparent that as a rule the cock possesses a preponderance of vital force as compared with hens, and his strong powers transmit his color to his offspring. Therefore the selection and management of the breeding cock is of great importance to the breeder. His color and constitution should be of the best, and in addition he should be supplied with the best of chicken fare; and he must not be overtaxed by being yarded with too many hens, if you expect a lot of fine chicks. If your choice be one of sluggish movement but bearing the color desired, mate him to less hens and those with plenty of life.

### BREEDING "IN AND IN."

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This subject is of the greatest importance, and attracts attention from all good breeders. It is not unusual to find in the possession of some a breed of fowls formerly esteemed for gameness and fighting qualities, but having been bred "in and in" for a number of years, they have become sickly, show a decided lack of courage, small in leg, bone and muscle, and are given up as utterly worthless; consequently it is necessary that a fresh strain of blood be introduced from time to time to avoid these injurious results; but it is by no means essential to make use of other than the particular species for such change of blood. When, as advised, new breeders are introduced, the progeny will have larger bone and muscle, greater and more determined courage, and will be distinguished for activity and willingness to force the fight.

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In-breeding demands some certain and reliable proof for or against the practice, and experience has established the truth. I am not prepared to condemn or approve the practice, but will say before going further, one to in-breed to any great extent must do so with great caution. Many are and have been writing in its favor, and are giving good evi-

dence for its practice, in proper hands; and, too, many are writing against its practice, giving just as good arguments on the other side of the question.

This question often comes up: Has in-breeding been a benefit or a curse? I am not prepared to answer, because I am not able to say what the result would have been if in-breeding had never been resorted to.

I believe, though, had it been possible to have procured the proper matings, without having resorted to in-breeding, our domestic animals and fowls would be far advanced from what they are to-day. It was far cheaper to in-breed than to procure the proper mate, is our reason of its practice to-day. It is not because of the better results obtained, but its cheapness for the time being.

Do not understand me to say that I am in favor of introducing new blood into the flock each year, for that is hardly practicable, unless you knew the blood of the fowls you were breeding into your yard, and was sure no bad would result from it. One can breed from his own yard for a few generations, without exactly breeding in and in. If you must introduce new blood, introduce the female. By so doing you will not be so apt to spoil your male line; that is, if you have a male line; if you have not it is time you were making an effort to establish one; for you will never be able to breed poultry to any certainty without one.

What I mean by a male line is, male that is sure

to reproduce himself in his offspring. Establish a male strain if you are compelled to breed in and in to do so, with plenty of good hard sense.

Of course, continual in-breeding draws, degenerates and depresses the vital forces, and, therefore, is wrong. But when the purpose is to produce identity of type, as is reproduced in pure bred stock, it is about the only possible process by which it can be done.

I will breed in and in before I will introduce a fowl into my breeding pens that I do not know the strain of.

When a breeder of fowls says that he does not breed in and in, but introduces new blood every year, and that he ships fowl that are not akin, tell him—well, if he is not too large, and does not carry a gun, and will promise not to shoot, tell him he lies! If any breeder will introduce new blood into his flock every year, and does not subdue the new blood before he breeds from it, to sell the increase as fancy fowls, he should be drummed out of the fraternity, because he is not able to tell what the offspring will be in the mating of two different strains, bred for different results.

Any breeder that has a well-established male line is making a mistake if he breeds out of that line. It will be a few years work for him lost.

In keeping the male side of the house I know of no way of doing so, only by in and in breeding. So far I believe in it, and no farther.



GRAY HENNY COCK.



## BREEDING FOR THE PIT.

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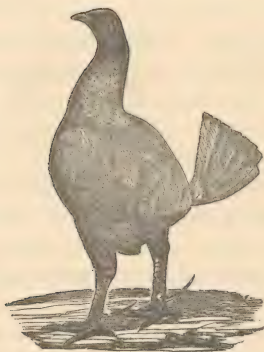
Select a well-tried and thoroughly tested cock from some strain, mate to him from four to six hens of equally as well tried merit. Never breed from a hen unless you know she throws good fighting stock, no matter how game she may be. After you have your yard, and you wish to introduce fresh blood, do so by taking a cock or stag and mating to one of the hens and trying out the progeny; if the cross proves good you have now a new fusion of blood to use, or you can mate the brood cock to a hen in like manner and try out the progeny the same. Never add a hen to your yard unless you know her blood and breeding; and moreover, if she be a cross with the brood cock, by this means you avoid breeding a worthless lot of dunghills, or "pot" stock. One thing hard to do, is to buy all hens; pullets are always plenty. Most of our cockers from long experience breed old hens to stags and cocks to pullets, thus procuring better chicks than by mating of equal ages. In selecting a brood cock choose one weighing not less than six pounds, and when in hand he should be wiry, lively and full of motion--a "gabbler" or talker from the start, talking and chattering all the time, with his legs drawn up close to his

body or against your hands, and possess a noways fearless appearance. We prefer a medium station, while others proclaim all for the high station. Some compound high station anything that can stand on the floor (like the Malay Game) and eat off the head of a barrel. The hens should handle like the cock. Much favor is given a cock with a short, shrill, clear crow. If a cock dislikes a hen she should be removed from the yard, as it tends to trouble, and all the hens will soon turn on her. When a hen begins to cluck discard all eggs laid after she shows signs of clucking, and the last one before these symptoms come on. Thus you avoid small, worthless runts. Ascertain by reading *The Game Fowl Monthly* what are the most popular and most successful strains of Pit Games. Remember that any pit cock is worthless that is not a good fighter and dead game.

Then when you have decided upon the strain you want to breed you should exercise good judgment in buying stock. Find if you can a breeder who makes a specialty of the strain you want. Do not try to "Jew" him down in price. Tell him what you want the fowl for and leave the selection to him. Some prefer to start with birds, some prefer to begin with eggs. Now there is but little choice. Probably the birds would be the cheaper in the end, but some who are not able to pay \$15 for a trio of breeders are able to pay \$3 for a setting of eggs, and must wait a year for a stock. An honorable dealer will send you just what he agrees to whether you

buy eggs or fowl; a dishonorable dealer will cheat just as soon on fowls as on eggs.

When you order *pit* stock do not expect *Standard Games* nor anything that resembles a *Standard Game* in shape.



### ON SELECTING A BROOD COCK.

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In selecting a brood cock there are several things of prime importance which are easy to keep in mind—feathers, spirit, size, shape and health.

There is no scientific reason why our color should be attended by game qualities more than another. Black-reds are called the standard not because they are gamer than others but because the cock suits the eye of the majority. Feathers no more indicate the qualities of a Game cock than a gold case indicates a poor watch. The case may be solid gold studded with diamonds, while the works within may never be right but by accident. Too often young fanciers are carried away by the handsome plumage of some specimen of unknown and unapproved pedigree, introduce him into the yards and in after battles been disgusted by showing rank dunghills in which they put all trust and money. The fact is, our most successful cockers show a variety of colors. If color is coupled with the essentials so much the better but do not choose for feathers alone.

By far the most valuable quality in a cock is gameness or 'spirit.' The latter used because it is broader than gameness; it includes the latter and also the general demeanor of your cock. Some cocks are slow, inert, hard to pile up and generally careless

of surroundings. These may be dead game but are frequently killed before they find out what's up. We like a cock that holds his legs tight up under the hand, head lofty, talking all the time and disposed to crow, turning the head quickly about. The best of these chatterers frequently talk while they fight and I have never seen one get whipped or run away. Do not like a cock that lets his legs hang at full length when in the hand and puts his head down, though many become of the latter kind by much handling. There is a peculiar expression of the eye that always tells what a cock is, but the power to discover this is a gift to only a few, so we cannot hope to impart it by words. We have seen some magnificent cocks that held the legs tightly up and the head drawn back near the shoulders while in the hand. Gameness is that which is of most value in actual battle. Wish to say, however, that there is no such thing as an absolutely Game cock, and badly handled some hack easily, while others bear more but all will eventually give in. The question frequently presents itself, "Shall I breed from this cock with splendid pedigree but never fought or from that one which I just saw win a good fight?" Cocks of pedigree are reckoned valuable by the writer according to the number of fights they have won in actual matches and with short heels.

If a cock has been conditioned and fought successfully several times he is a treasure hardly to be priced.



The size of your brood cock should be regulated by the size of the hens on which you wish to breed. If the hens are very large the cock must not be above medium for practical purposes. The following table will help in getting an idea:—

Cock 7-0 on Hen 5-0 reproduce same weight.

|   |     |   |     |      |     |         |      |
|---|-----|---|-----|------|-----|---------|------|
| " | 7-0 | " | 4-0 | give | 6-0 | down to | 5-8  |
| " | 6-0 | " | 5-0 | "    | 6-4 | "       | 5-12 |
| " | 6-0 | " | 4-0 | "    | 5-0 | "       | 5-4  |
| " | 5-0 | " | 5-0 | "    | 5-8 | "       | 5-4  |
| " | 5-0 | " | 4-0 | "    | 5-0 | "       | 4-8  |

For shakebags a 7-0 cock on 5-8 hen will give birds large enough for any purpose. The cocks at full maturity will fight at 7-0

Medium height, wide between the wing-butts, with large quills in the wing—lift the wing and see if the muscle is broad and hard—these give the bird power to propel the gaff. A long, large thigh counts for much. I have seen a bird with very large thigh knock a small-thighed bird's shank entirely off and to tear boot legs like paper. Your bird should be round-bodied and not loose-feathered. Avoid thin-bodied, tail, slender birds; about four out of six will get coupled, and such are invariably delicate when chicks. Neck rather long, small head. Have observed the big-headed chickens get whipped. Prefer a high-breasted bird with long very drooping tail. Am satisfied that squirrel-tailed birds depend too much on pecking while the droop-tail bird is built for striking. This is so noticeable that I have seen it strikingly true with full brothers. The rea-

son is that when a bird strikes he has to lower his tail but in pecking the tail is nearly always raised and the bird instinctively fights in the way most convenient and for which he is built.

By no means breed from an unsound bird ; a wing broken or leg or purely flesh cut makes but little difference after the bird has been thoroughly cured and healed, and even an eye cut out does no harm, but when the gaff has penetrated to the cavity, cut a large artery, coupled the bird or struck him in the region of the testacles, he will not do. Give your birds all the constitution you can. A prime constitution brings with it many of the good qualities detailed above. Inside, hard and stout bone.

The only way power can be improved is by infusing thoroughly tested Aseel blood, but do not touch it until you have made the most careful research. There is no great difference in the wind power of the strains of English Games, but the best Aseels as old cocks can wind our English stags easily.



IRISH BROWN RED.

### CARE OF BREEDING STOCK.

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Breeding stock should be in the best of feather and health, as it is a well-known fact that breeding from diseased fowls results in the offspring's being of weak and sickly constitutions, small bone, low headed and with undeveloped muscles.

Great care must be exercised in and about the breeding pen. No other cock than the one you wish stock from must be allowed with the hens. If your hens have been mated to any poor blood or dunghill you must purge them from the clutch of eggs and not use them until after they have returned from the cluck. In this way you will succeed in raising just what you desire from the pen. Some say that only three or four eggs is all you need discard. This may answer in many cases, but we caution one and all against any such advice. Nothing does us only the eggs laid after the hen has returned from the cluck and then mated with the desired cock. If it is crosses you are after, then pursue the method most easily known, by putting together all the varieties you choose.

Game fowls, being very hardy, will thrive in the smallest runs and spaces, although a good grass run in the country suits them best; but we find them owned in large cities with very small yard, and there

thrive and do well. This will show them to be of a strong constitution and less subject to disease than other poultry. One of the most essential requirements is proper ventilation in the pens, plenty of light in their roosting places with ventilation at the top, and the house kept perfectly dry and clean. The perches should be low down and proper size; the nest boxes should be made large, supplied with clean straw, and a nest for each hen, as then they will not disturb each other.

Keep your breeding hens tame so you will have no trouble in handling them, and in this way you will find eggs hatch well and the chick that come will be strong and healthy.





### TIME TO MATE BREEDING PEN.

The breeders for the breeding pen should be placed together by the middle or first of February, and by so doing the eggs may be saved by the first or middle of March, providing your hens have been in no other company than the game cock with which you are to mate or stock of his get.

### CARE OF EGGS.

Gather daily, washing the soiled ones, and if to be used within two or three days place them in a cool room. If you wish to keep them longer than this, or to set a hen with them, put them into baskets, in which first place about two inches of bran, packing them closely, and with the larger end down. The philosophy is this: The air-cell in the larger end of the egg enlarges when the egg is laid away. If the butt end is up, the evaporation of moisture is greater, and the pressure of air through the open pores at the end rapidly increases the size of the bubble. If the butt end is down, the weight of the liquid contents pressing down on the bubble hinders the entrance of air, allowing only a very slow and gradual increase in the size of the air cell.



IRISH GRAY GAME COCK.

### FEEDING BREEDERS.

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Too much attention cannot be paid to the Game fowl. The food should be considerably varied. Oftentimes, for the want of animal food, hens will pick the feathers from each other and eat them. This can be, in a great measure, prevented by getting once a week meat scraps from the market and give to them. With some it is a habit, and is learned while sitting on the roost during the cold or stormy weather, and is often a great source of annoyance to breeders. This habit is found more among Game fowls than other varieties, and often is killed a favorite brood hen in order to save the breeding cocks.

Feed often but never too much; over-fat fowls are more liable to disease than those in a growing condition. Fowls for breeding should not be fed on fat-producing food continually, but only in quantities sufficient to keep the physical forces in good condition; and we should furnish such kinds as will compensate for the loss of green and insect food which they procure in summer. Grass, gravel and old plaster, corn, wheat and oats mixed, or in alternate feedings, should be on the bill of fare. If in winter or confined in small yard, supply the fowls with meat scraps and cabbage leaves to take the place of the animal and grass substance, and avoid much

danger of unhealthy fowls. Sweet apples and raw onions are relished in the winter. In the spring season potato peelings are a substance to promote egg production, and will be heartily eaten if prepared in small bits. Have a water vessel within their reach, and keep in it an old rusty bit of iron; thus you are freed from changing water as often as if left pure.

In the egg season be very particular to mark each egg when picked up, day and date, and if necessary from hen laid, that you may know what you are doing and what the stock is out of when hatched. The careful and successful cocker can tell you just to a chick from what parents and when hatched simply by means of his note-book, and this is the only successful way to breed Games.



MUFF.

## SETTING HENS.

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Never use a large dunghill hen to set and rear the Game chicks; by all means get a light-weight hen, Game hens are best, as they will hatch more chicks than any dunghill, and they rear them with less trouble. The Game hen will clean out cats, rats and weasels, and if liberated will search for insects for her young, while the dunghill will hardly squall. Never put more than thirteen eggs under a hen; eleven in the end will prove more successful to you, yet thirteen is the average number used. If the hen is setting on a dry place like a straw pile or hay, or in shavings, we give the eggs a sprinkling with tepid water on or about the seventh, fifteenth and twentieth days, to moisten the shell that the chicks may break them easily. If the hen has liberty to all kinds of weather the sprinkling on the twentieth day is all that is necessary, as the hen will furnish plenty of moisture through the course of incubation.

In all cases we protest against raising the Pit Game chick in the patent incubator, as they develop so rapidly the joints are loose and the snug, solid-built Game is a total failure. Having had experience in this line, we know from whence we speak—quality is lost by so doing.



### REARING YOUNG GAMES.

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A Game chick that is worth raising at all will be worth from five to ten dollars at ten months of age, and should be properly reared to produce all the strength, with that idea and price considered. No time nor pains should be spared to give them the very best care through the days of chickenhood and furnish them with just the proper amount of the best of food. Some have an idea that anything is good enough to feed chickens--sweet, sour, moldy or musty and at any age. This is a mistaken idea, to say the least; it is not in accordance with all things. Feed well and sparingly and note the result.

You may often find chicks coming from good yards bearing marks of being fine and pure bred, and have little life, being on the lookout for every motion made, in many cases because of poor and spare feeding in youth making cowards, caused by the large birds while picking up feed. Take these birds and place them on a walk for months and seldom will they forget that cowardice, permanently stamped. In many instances the bird fresh to the pit from the walk will show up well in the first contest, though a coward when a chick. Now that this once a chick has won a battle, and the owner, knowing nothing of the care when young, has placed great confidence in

his bird. From thus on the bird recalls old thoughts that prove him a coward simply because of poor feed and treatment when a chick.

Young Game chicks feather very rapidly from the first, and this growth of feathers makes meat an essential part of the food. We prefer to feed small bone scraps from the market, uncooked.

When the chicks commence coming from the shells take from the nest at night all the loose shells and give the little ones better quarters. Do not be in a hurry to remove the brood from the nest, allow them to remain all of eighteen to twenty-four hours after they are hatched, as they will not need any food for the first twenty-four hours, and at that time very little. Feed at first a few moistened bread crumbs or the yolk of hard boiled eggs; feed sparingly and often. Give no water for the first three to six days, if weather is mild, and then you had better use milk if possible. Continue the stale bread for several days, gradually mixing in pure fine cracked wheat. During this time have your hen moved with brood to a suitable coop, and if early in spring place a board in under coop with at least an inch of as dry dirt as you can easily obtain. Feed the hen plenty and well at time of hatching, and after that she may keep quiet, giving the chicks all the rest they need, as they do but little exercising for the first three days after being hatched. By no means put a board under a coop without covering, as it will make crooked toes. Keep the droppings

cleaned from the coop once a day, and add a little fresh earth then on the board.

Use good judgement about cleanliness and all the fussing will be returned in the end. We feed nothing but cracked wheat and scraps from the table; after they are one week old occasionally get raw bone scraps from the market. Keep the hen cooped all of the time for about six weeks, and then allow her to roam during the day, after the dew has risen. If you cannot locate your coop near shade to make protection from the afternoon sun, drive down a couple of stakes and form a sun shelter or wind breaker by laying on a few boards. It makes a play ground for them and shelter in rainy weather. Avoid their going to roost if possible until they are three months old, or four months if possible. When removed to larger coops keep the floors covered with plenty of soft, clean straw or chaff that they sit on, as they grow faster if kept warm and dry and free from the damp air of night. Give but little water in the extreme heat of the day. A better way is to put the water in the shade a little distance from the coop and let them find it when dry, for if left at the coop they will drink every time they come near the old hen at the demand of a cluck. Too much water will cause a sticky, nasty vent or scours which in many cases kills the affected.



SILVER DUCKWING.



THIMBLE SOCKET HEEL.

### POWER OF SEX.

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Some time ago it was the good luck of the writer to own a pure black hen, and her progeny when mated with the old Game rooster never lacked for pure black marking like the mother. But alas! there came a change; the old hen escaped from the yard of safety and met a white leghorn cock which was up to devilishness and laid chase to capture her by the top of the head and so he did—in spite of clubs and stones he got there just the same. The old hen was finally captured and put back in the yard, and the egg of each day for a week was cast aside for cooking purposes, and then her old mate allowed freedom with her. The eggs afterwards were saved without the least hesitation or thought of anything but their being pure, as we had read such reports, that even the third egg was pure—but after seventeen had been laid the old hen proposed to incubate, and so she did, having left her fifteen eggs. She



did the duty, and good it was, for she brought out fifteen bright looking infant chicks—in fact too bright as it resulted.

When I took a look at the nest full at first it struck me—who the devil changed the eggs, taking old black's and leaving dunghills in place? There were only three of them that bore the markings of old black as in past years, many of them having too much white on the head—ye gods! yellow legs!

Having read that the fourth egg was positively good and would not be fertile unless a rooster had been with her, I could not think otherwise than it was true, and the faulty chicks might color up like the old hen.

Time passed on and the fifteen were reduced to twelve, but not any too soon if it had been down to one as far as quality of gameness. When early fall came instead of having a dozen fine-looking, plump black Game chicks, I had that number of spangles or splashed games with leghorn feathers and comb. Very handsome they were, for the pure white showed off well with the pure black, and the rosy red high combs did make a lusty appearance. Having no doubt of quality and gameness, on the eventful day known as the 25th of December I matched one for a month's wages, not as a runner, but a fighter, and backed as dead game, knowing it to be the result of old black's stock. But to my regret, there were but eleven months in my year and thirteen for my opponent. The long and in fact the short of the thing

was the spangle-yellow-legged-high-combed-dunghill proved a racer and a good one, for it took six men and a whiffet dog to catch him in a tight room.

When I produced the spangle his color elicited a number of remarks and considerable anxiety as to where I got the stock, not even dreaming that it was one of old black's stags. Neither were they any the wiser afterward.

The balance of the flock were walked—into the kitchen direct; and I was out of the Game business for a year.

This single connection with a dunghill thoroughly convinced me that I did not want to hatch out any Game eggs for pit use from a hen that had ever met with such a misfortune, unless she has turned broody after she be mated with the desired cock and kept with him only during the time of saving eggs.



LONG DROP-SOCKET HEEL.

### THE SEX BY EGGS.

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It has been found by careful experiments by various breeders that the eggs in the early season and the fore part of the clutch will produce more stags or cockerels than those of the last or latter part of the season. For instance, your hens commence laying in early March and April, your best stags and seventy per cent. of the hatch will be males, while the chicks hatched from the eggs laid in May and June will be a greater per cent. pullets.



CINCINNATI HEEL.

### COLOR CROSSING.

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To old cockers who have had years of experience, this article may not be of very deep interest, but to young hands it should be of very great interest.

I believe in fine crossing for the advantages that are to be derived, but when the same can be accomplished with less disadvantage, we should certainly regulate our crossing accordingly. Some are fond of one color and will breed that alone. When you are a monomaniac of this kind never, at least, forget the requisite virtues your birds should possess. Say we choose black breasted reds with yellow legs. Now, if in crossing we do all we can to perpetuate these markings, we frequently forget shape, health and spirit; we pursue the shadow and let the substance go. However, avoiding this error, breeding a favorite color may not only be a grand success but becomes exceedingly fascinating. And yet our cockers generally believe in the maxim, "Variety is the spice of life," and departing from Lord Derby's precept, pride themselves in game miscellany which, in certain limits, is safer, by far, than one color breeding. I see a great difference between in-breeding and color breeding. Birds may be in-bred and still as varied in color as the hues of the rainbow, but several crosses (say five) with reference to a

distinct color will reproduce their like almost every time. For illustration, put your yellow legged black-red on a yellow legged wheaten hen, no matter what was the color of the father and mother of these birds, the chicks will come four out of five pullets like the mother, and stags like the father. Having started two separate yards at the same time, cross a stag from one on pullets from the other and the reverse, and I will almost bet my head that every stag and pullet will come in regular in color. These birds will have such intensity of blood that if one of the stags be placed in a yard with hens of various colors his offspring can easily be recognized and many will breed true to color even out of hens of other color. In-bred birds are likely to show regularity in color but not necessarily. I have seen developments from in breeding without reference to color. In past generations a black cock's ancestry on one side were white. I placed him with dark hens. I afterward allowed a son, black as tar, with green legs, to run with a half sister black as night. She hatched five chicks and two were milk white with yellow legs and beaks. Here is the conclusion: One-color breeding is far superior to in-breeding and evades the evils of consanguinity if you wish birds true to a color. Supposing that you do not care for any particular color, but just want dead game birds with fine qualities, you have a broad field for operations and have to avoid only a few things, but those few things by all means avoid. In the



first place any bird whose color is a freak I would avoid: I mean a hen or cock the like of which has never been seen before. If out of my black-reds I should breed a solid green cock he might be a great curiosity and much admired, but he is not a safe stock-getter because his color is unnatural and shows an improper condition in the organs of secretion that give color. Again, the crossing of certain colors will be attended (all things being equal) with dismal failure. My experience teaches me to avoid the following mixtures: Gray cocks on Blue hens. I saw an Irish Gray cock weighing 7 pounds put on ten fine Kentucky Blue hens; the chicks were plump enough, but their plumage was simply execrable, not only in color, but in brightness and in length. The young were short feathered and ugly, although the parents had fine plumage, the cock's tail being as long as any I had ever seen. Gray cock on dominiques, plumage is not likely to be long and full but light in color and sparse. Blacks on whites produce a great deal of soot and destroys all beauty, while the plumage is loose and easily broken. They never look clean. Whites and dominiques are not likely to do well. I do not believe that whites are good for crossing with any but Reds and their own color. I should certainly not breed them to Blues. A white cock on a red hen will give brassbacks and pyles generally. If you wish solid-colored dominiques put a dominique cock on black hens; you will get stags and pullets of beautiful dominique marking.

If you desire to get red dominiques put any dominique cock on red hens. In mating dominiques do not forget, however, that it is indubitably true that a cock of any color except dominique on dominique hens will never produce a dominique pullet--every bird of the dominique feather will be a stag. Therefore, if you mate your dominique hen with your red cock you will not get a single pullet of the mother's feather. There is something very peculiar about this feather beside the matter of sex. It is this: Take a stag supposed to be full dominique, put him on a black hen; you will get some dominique stags and pullets and perhaps some of both sexes of other colors; but take one of these stags, which, according to the rule of computing with Games generally, is one-half dominique, and put him on black hens, you will get the same proportion of dominique feathered birds. Now, take a stag of this cross (one-quarter dominique, according to estimating usually,) and put him on black hens, you will get dominique stags and pullets, one-eighth only as above. Take one of these stags, put him on black hens and keep this system up till, according to our way of estimating, your stag is one-sixteenth or one thirty-second and still he will produce his color freely, and retain color accurately; indeed, I candidly believe that no matter how many out-crosses are made the same dominique peculiarities will be there, which is not true of any other color of game fowls. Here is a formula I will give my readers for breeding a

great number of stags by keeping few hens: Put one of your superior dominique cocks with one of your finest dominique hens; now put the pullets from this cross with the very finest cock of another color you can find. Your birds will come at least seven in ten dominique stags, no matter at what season of the year they are hatched. My grand conclusion from my observations in regard to dominiques is, that no fault nor virtue can be entirely bred out of Game fowls. I defy any man in a lifetime to breed knob combs out of his strain. Hence, logically, we conclude that if we have a pet bird with a serious fault, it is useless to try to cross it out, and nothing remains but to give him up and find another without such fault.



HALF DROP-SOCKET HEEL.



PIT TRIM.



EXHIBITION TRIM.

### DUBBING.

BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Provide yourself with a piece of cloth of some description, anything that is handy; spread it out on the floor or ground, and place the stag on his breast with his feet straight out behind him across the end of the cloth with his head even with the edge, and roll him up tightly; be sure the wings, legs and feathers are all in proper position so as not to hurt him; he then can not flutter or do anything but move his head. Now sit down and lay him across your lap on his side, head to the left and back to you, take his head in the hollow of your left hand so that with the fingers you can handle his gills. Place the scissors along the under side of the top of right gill from the throat to the beak, and with the fingers pull the gill out and downward till it is so that you can cut it entirely off at one stroke; now take under

gill and pull outward and up till you can do the same thing, then take scissors and pinch earlobes together until you can cut as much of them off as necessary at one stroke. Place the chicken between your knees with his head toward the left, take his head in your left hand and cut the comb in any shape you like, cutting always from behind. I never cut a comb off close. When done drop him down and let him pick up his comb and gills and he is ail right. I never put anything on the cuts, for being cut with scissors they bleed but very little. I always use my round-pointed pocket scissors. By this method you can trim more in a little while than you can raise in a year, and never get any blood on you except on your hands. I notice in nearly all the articles in reference to this that you must begin at the beak. I can not commence there and handle the head well, for it changes the position entirely, and is not near so quickly done.

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BY H. P. CLARKE.

Take the bird in your hands, fold his wings close to his body, stretch his legs out straight and backward, then wrap an old cloth or bag tight around him, only leaving his head sticking out at one end of the roll; this is to keep him quiet so that he can not kick, and at the same time it prevents blood from getting on the operator's clothes.

Sit down on a low bench or stool, and take the bird in your lap, holding his body firmly between





DARK RED HENNY.

your knees. Place your left thumb back of the comb, and run your fore-finger through the bird's mouth, so that you can hold his head firmly. Stretch the bird's neck out to the left; have an assistant stretch out the right wattle, then with a strong and sharp pair of scissors cut the wattle off up to the line of hair-like feathers of the face and throat. Let the assistant take hold of the right earlobe and stretch it out perpendicularly or at right angles to the direction of the beak, then with one up-cut take off the earlobe close to the head. Now reversing your hold on the bird's head, placing your thumb in his mouth and your fore-finger back of the comb, take off the left wattle and earlobe in the same manner as the right. Now change to your first hold and cut the comb off close to the head.

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#### BY TRUE EYE.

First get something to set on—a nail keg or chair—then have on hand an old coat, bag or piece of an old rag; catch your stag, wrap one of these articles mentioned around his body, leaving out his head. Have a straight pair of stout shears—do not use crooked shears, for you may gouge out a piece unnecessarily and injure. With the ends of bag or whatever you may use have wrapped each side of him to the feet; then set down, place the stag's feet between your knees, place the first finger of your left hand in his mouth and thumb of left hand back of his head; now you have him where he can not

use his wings and you can hold him as if he were in a vice without damage to bird. Place the shears that you now have in the right hand, the lower blade just close up to where the under side of the wattle connects on the neck and press the upper blade close to his head, or rather face, and follow the upper line of the wattle where it connects on his face; if any be left trim off to make a smooth job. Now reverse him, head toward you with his legs between the knees; place the thumb of the left hand in his mouth with fore-finger back of his head, commencing by placing the shears as for the other, and always commence to cut from the earlobe to the bill. Now reverse him, head from you; place the left hand finger in his mouth and the thumb of the same hand back of his head. Now look out—this hurts very much, and if there is any getting away he will. Place the shears at the end of the comb at his nostrils, cut up, leaving it in the shape of a “V;” this gives him a rather high comb, which is best for a pit bird. For show birds cut as close as you have a desire. If after cutting the comb it projects too far back from the head cut off to suit taste. Some cut off only the wattles at one time, the comb at another. There is no need of putting anything on after cutting, unless you wish to rub on a little grease of any kind; salt or fresh lard will do.

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BY M. DOANE.

The proper method of dubbing stags without an

assistant is this: Roll the stag up in an overcoat and have ready two pieces of inch board with straight edges and about three feet long. have also a woollen stocking or a very thick piece of woollen cloth, place the two edges of the stocking or cloth on each side of the stag's comb, and then place the comb with the cloth on each side of it between the straight edges of the two boards near one end and rest your knee upon the boards just heavy enough to hold the stag by his comb so you can take off his wattles; the stag cannot move his head in the least, as he always does when merely held by an overcoat, and causes you to stretch his wattles more or less when taking them off which should not be done as you are very apt to cut the wattle off too close. One writer tells us to take off the wattle a half inch from the eye. This will not do, as some stags have larger heads than others, and consequently their wattles are farther from their eyes; if you should take off the wattles a half inch from the eyes it would be too close on most stags at the age of four months. Then again no mortal can measure a half inch with his eye with any certainty. If you examine the wattles of a stag you will see on the inside just where they separate from the hide of the throat, the wattles separate exactly on the line where the fine short fuzz of the throat leaves off, and if you cut below this line so as to take off any fuzz with the wattles, you have taken just so much of the hide of the stag's throat which is one of the causes of a hide bound throat



ESLIN RED QUILL.



when dubbed too close. When taking off the left wattle, which is then the upper one, your position should be facing the stag with left knee on the boards and then cut in the direction of the body of stag towards beak, then you can see on the lower or inside of the stag's wattle, and as you cut you can follow the line of discrimination between the wattle and the hide of the throat. When taking off the right wattle your left knee should be on the boards and the right knee on the opposite side of the stag, and you will be facing the same direction as the stag, then cut off the wattle in the direction of the beak towards the body of the stag. Of course after taking off one wattle you must turn the stag over to take off the other. By the use of a little vise a stag can be held by his comb. If a cock is rolled up in a coat and lying flat on his back both wattles can be taken off without turning the stag or moving him. It is easy enough to take off the comb without an assistant as you all know; in cutting the comb off close it makes the stag's head look a great deal neater, and gives the stag a more presentable appearance to visitors or in the show room; and I think when so dubbed and fought in the pit there is nothing near as serious as many apprehend. Look at a stag's single comb at four months of age (and most strains have single combs) and you will see about one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness at the base of his comb with the exception of one-fourth square inch in thickness on the back part of his comb at the base, and you will

se) on each side of his comb a featherless space greater than the thickness of his comb, and nothing serious ever happens to that part of his scalp any more than to that which is cut high, yet it lies just as openly to be billed. Each earlobe should be cut off when you take off the wattle on that side.

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#### DUBBING AND NOTES.

The accompanying cut shows a very neat and tastily dubbed head of a Pit fowl as dubbed for the pit, which is done in as many ways as one can imagine. One way, which is easy for the amateur, is to do it with a sharp knife in this manner:

Prepare your knife ready for the work, having it as sharp as a razor, also have handy an old bag or some garment that you can use. Catch your cock and then sit down, spreading the bag or garment on

your knees. Lay your stag crosswise of the bag and pull his limbs straight out behind his body, rolling him up tightly in the bag, with nothing showing, if possible, only the head. After you have him secure allow him to rest in your hands for a little time, that he may cease his struggling.

Place him on your lap, or between your knees, with his tail toward your body. Put your left hand around his neck, close to the head, placing the fore or index finger over the point of his bill, holding it firmly. Take the knife in right hand and cut at least an eighth of an inch above beak on comb, gradually raising the progress of the knife to the rear of the comb, making the same a round finish when cut as shown in head above. If a sharp tit or end is left at the back part of the comb cut it off, rounding to the base of comb.

Do not trim too close as it will affect the head when bird comes in a battle, if much billing is done by the opponent.

To trim the wattles take the bird, as he lays, by the left hand, grasping the wattle next to the right hand between the thumb and finger, pinching it gently and rolling between the thumb and finger, which will crowd out the inside film or substance which does not need to be cut. After you have them separated, cut the outside flesh or substance lightly from base next to neck to the front at base of beak as close to the side of face as your judgment will allow, then turn wattle up and cut in opposite direc-

tion on the under side, which will allow outside skin to pull off, or nearly so, that you may cut off the little ends if any are left. Turn the bird end for end, head facing you, and trim other side in like manner.

If the deaf ears are large and unsightly trim them in same manner and by all means avoid cutting the whitish inside flesh covering of the wattles and deaf ears.

If any unsightly points appear trim them off now before releasing the bird and not have two jobs at the same stag.

After this treatment the fowl will bleed freely and it is much better to apply something to help dry up the flow. In this case anything that is not heating or irritating is considered the best. For instance, take good, pure, unadulterated varnish and apply, and with which sprinkle on a little flour of sulphur.

After you have finished, place the cock in a coop where he will remain quiet for a few hours when the flow of blood will cease if kept at rest.

If you are trimming a number of stags it is better to have an assistant which will, in a great measure, expediate matters and secure a better trim in most cases.

Some people, when trimming the comb, catch their index finger of the left hand in the bird's mouth and then use a pair of scissors to do the cutting. When so doing thin blades should be used, otherwise it is more painful and heals slowly.

There are numerous tools on the market recom-

mended for dubbing stags or fowls, but, from all we have been learning for the past fifteen years, it has proven that there is nothing better than a good, thin-bladed pocket knife for the work; and, like the work of a skilled surgeon, it has been proven that there is no cut so quick to heal as one made by a sharp instrument. Bear this in mind and your newly-dubbed stags will heal much quicker than those of your neighbor who haggled them off with a pair of scissors.

Stags should be fed plenty of good, solid food just before dubbing, that they will not need to have their heads down looking for food soon after the operation, which, to a great extent will lessen the flow of blood.

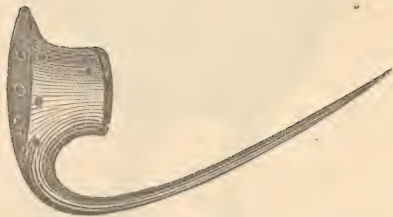
Some prefer dubbing stags at the age of three months, which we consider too young, as the comb has not matured enough to relieve the bird of the portion which should be taken off when fully matured. In cases where the strain of fowls mature very young the early dubbing may be beneficial and will allow of walking the birds at the age of five or six months, but it is in this case better to wait until they are more matured. An April-hatched stag should be dubbed not earlier than the middle or last of October and later hatches accordingly.

If you are trimming a number of stags at a time and turning them loose as soon as trimmed, you will encounter much trouble among the flock as to which one is to be cock of the walk, and in many cases good heads are spoiled and present an unsightly ap-



pearance when healed up. A better way is to have your walks secured and as soon as healed enough to liberate place them there until you wish to use them in the pit.

In some cases the trimming for the exhibition, as shown in this cut is often called skinning and destroys the Game appearance, which is much admired by the people who visit the poultry show.



DROP SOCKET.



TRIMMED FOR THE PIT.

## TRIMMING FOR THE PIT.

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After having tied your fowl's legs with a handkerchief or a piece of soft string, place him on your lap, with his legs between your knees, and his head toward yourself; then, collecting all his neck feathers together, apply your forefinger and thumb in a circular form to that part of the neck next the shoulder of the cock, and press forward the whole of his neck feathers as close round his head as possible; they will then appear like an erect frill round his head; to which apply a long and sharp pair of scissors as close to your finger and thumb as possible all around, and then take off the surface of the remaining ones next the head, but not too bare; in fact, it is performed on the same principle as hair cutting; for the feathers are shortened by being cut when turned the contrary way to that in which they naturally lie. Next cut about two inches off the ends of both his wings, at the same time making the flight feathers decrease in length a quarter of an inch in proportion to the others, leaving the flight feathers farthest from his body the shortest, which should be at least three inches from its insertion in the wing. Then cut the tail, leaving it a large hand's breadth from its insertion in the rump outwards, taking off all the curling

feathers round it, leaving only the vane or fan. When his tail is perfectly erect apply the scissors (with their point inclined a little downward) to the saddle, to keep the cocks cool. All the feathers round the vent are cut off very close from under the tail to three or four inches toward the breast between the legs.



LE COMBATTANT DÉNUDE DE MADAGASCAR  
ou COO MALGACHE (*Gallus Impennis*).

### SAFE WALKS.

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This has a wide meaning when you say "safe walks," which are very hard to procure for your stags. When your stags are eight or nine months old, dub them and place them out on as safe walks as you can secure; put them where they will be free from the company of turkeys, old cocks, geese and ducks. Allow them three or four months' freedom on the walk, and never bring them in for battle unless they show signs of perfect health, which is easily seen by the bright color of the face and head.



ASEEL COCK.



### TESTING GAMES.

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Nearly every breeder of Game Fowl has his own peculiar notion as to the best method of testing pit fowl, and naturally everyone believes his method is the best. Well, it is perhaps as well so, but we are satisfied of one thing concerning testing, and that is it is quite often carried to an extreme. Needless cruelty is used to prove a bird game. For example, of what use is it to cut a bird today with short gaff, and then tomorrow put him through the ordeal again—crippled, stiff and sore—and continue to repeat the dose, day after day, as is often done, until death relieves the poor bird from his misery? If this was necessary in order to prove the courage of a bird it would be a different matter, but we fail to see why it is.

Be sure the bird to be tested is in perfect health, and never test one that is in any way "off." If you do you are likely to make allowances for his condition, and should he fail to stay you are as much in the dark as ever. Heel a cock, heavier than the stag, with one and one-half or two inch heels; set them wide; let him cut the stag until he can no longer rise; draw the stag, and as soon as he recovers set him down again, and so continue to draw him and set him down for one hour; then put him away for

an hour or two, and then set him down and let him take his death. If he shows no disposition to run away or quit, he is a game bird, and you can depend on his brother's staying every time. If you set the steels on the cock wide enough, he is not likely to give the stag his death during the test of one hour. But when a stag is required to face the steels when weary and hopeless, being taken up and then required to face it again and again, if he has any dirt in him he will turn tail and sing lustily.



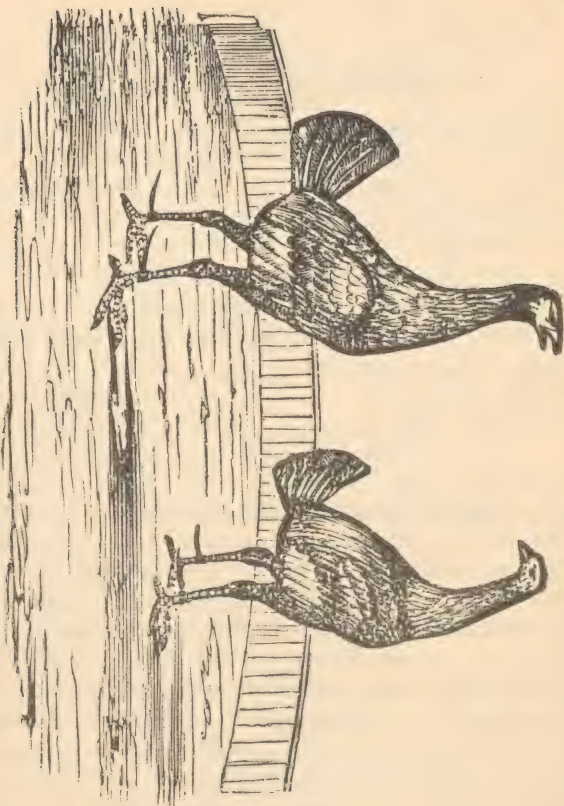
CINCINNATI REGULATION.

## FORM OF ARTICLES.

---

Articles of agreement, made the.....day  
of.....one thousand eight hundred and.....  
....., between.....First, the said parties have  
agreed that each of them shall produce, show and  
weigh, a.t....., on the .....day of.....  
....., beginning at the hour of... ..cocks  
not under....., nor above....., and  
as many of each party's cocks that come within one  
ounce of each other shall fight for.....a  
battle; that is,.....each cock, at the cockpit  
hereafter mentioned, and the party's cocks that win  
the greatest number of battles, matched out of the  
number before specified, shall be entitled to the sum  
of....., odd battle money, and the sum to  
be staked in the hands of Mr....., before  
any cocks are pitted, by both parties; it is also  
further agreed, that the cocks fight with steel spurs  
.....and with fair hackles, and to be subject  
to the.....rules in cock fighting, and the  
profits arising from the spectators, called door  
money, to be... .., after all charges are paid  
that usually happen on these occasions. Be it fur-  
ther agreed that said.....rules governing said main  
shall be considered as part of these articles and all  
provisions therein will govern any difficulty that  
may arise. Witness our hands this.....day of  
.....189....

IN THE PIT.



### AN ARTICLE FOR A COCK-MATCH.

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Articles of agreement made the .....day  
of.....189...between W. S. and J. C.

First.—The said parties have agreed that each of  
them shall produce, show and weigh at the.....  
.....Cock-pit,.....on the.....day of  
.....next, beginning at the hour of.....  
at the same time,.....cocks, none to be less  
than three pounds six ounces, nor more than four  
pounds eight ounces; and as many of each party's  
cocks as come within.....ounces of the other party's  
cocks, shall fight for.....guineas a battle, that  
is,.....guineas each cock, in as equal divisions  
as the battle can be divided into, as pits or days  
play, at the cock-pit aforesaid; and that the party's  
cocks that win the greatest number of battle matches  
out of the number aforesaid, shall be entitled to the  
sum of.....guineas as odd battle money;  
and the sum is to be made stakes into the hands of  
Mr.....before any cocks are pitted, in equal  
shares between the parties aforesaid; and the parties  
further agree to produce, show and weigh, on the  
said weighing day,.....cocks, for bye battles,  
subject to the same as the main cocks before men-  
tioned, and those to be added to the number of main  
cocks unmatched; and as many of them as come



within one ounce of each other shall fight for two guineas each battle, to be as equally divided as can be, and added to each pit or day's play with the main of cocks; and it is also agreed, that the balance of the battle money shall be paid at the end of each pit or day's play; and to fight in fair reputed silver spurs and with fair hackles, and to be subject to all the usual rules of cock fighting as is practiced in London and Newmarket; and the profit of the pit or day's play to be equally divided between the said parties after all charges are paid and satisfied, that usually are thereupon. Witness our hand this.....

....day of.....181....

Witness

W. S.

J. W.

J. C.

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## RULES FOR MATCHING AND FIGHTING COCKS.

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To begin the same by fighting the lighter pair of cocks (which fall in match) first, proceeding upwards to the end, that every lighter pair may fight earlier than those that are heavier.

In matching (with relation to the battles) it is a rule always, that after the cocks of the main are weighed, the match bills are compared.

That every pair of dead or equal weight are separated and fight against others, provided it appears that the main can be enlarged by adding thereto either one battle or more thereby.

## ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

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These articles of agreement are to certify that ..... of ..... and ..... of ....., have agreed to fight a main of cocks for ..... a side. The one winning the odd fight, to take all. Said main to be fought wherever the parties interested shall decide, and to be fought on the ..... of .....; and to be governed by the ..... Pit rules and the following stipulations.

First.—Each side will show ..... cocks weighing from ..... pounds for the top weight to ..... pounds and ..... ounces for the bottom weight, both of which are to be check.

Second.—The cocks are to be weighed by the referee and all falling within ..... ounces of each other shall be considered a match. If an even number fall in, the referee shall leave one out thus making it an uneven number.

Third.—The main shall be for the sum of ..... a side; each to deposit said amount in the hands of the referee and the whole amount to go to the winner of the odd fight.

Fourth.—Each side to deposit the sum of .....

.....in the hands of the temporary stakeholder, he to hold such stake until the judges and referee are chosen when he shall turn the said..... over as a part of the stake money, and in case either side fails to show at the pit side or refuse to go on with the main after the signing of these articles is to forfeit his.....and the temporary stakeholder shall pay the said .....over to the other contestant.

Fifth.--Each side shall choose a judge and the judges shall choose a referee who will decide all disputes and his decisions shall be final.

Sixth.--Each side shall show a set of..... and one set shall be chosen to fight out the main with exchanging heels each battle, either side using any other heels but those selected shall lose said battle.

Seventh.--Each side shall show a fair hack referee to decide if it is such.

Eighth.--No foul or crooked handling will be allowed and either party doing the same shall have the battle decided against him.

Ninth.—An admission fee of.....shall be charged each person as an entrance fee and the whole to be paid over to the winner of the main by the parties holding the said money.

Tenth.--In case of any interference on the night of the.....of.....the referee shall decide when and where the main shall be fought and as soon as possible thereafter. The stake money to

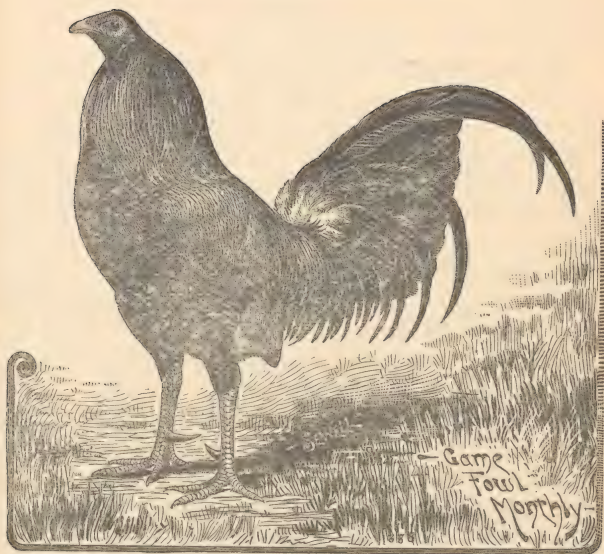
remain in the referee's hands until the main is decided.

Signed { .....

..... } Witness.  
 .....  
 ..... 189.....



WHITE ASEELS.



SHAWLNECK COCK.



## RULES FOR HEELING.

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BY W. A. E.

In the first place you want to find out how your cock handles his legs; some cocks strike higher with the left leg than the right, although the majority of cocks bring the right leg the highest. The easiest way to find how a cock strikes is to toss him on a bed of straw, or on the head of a barrel with a cushion on it, when you can easily see which foot he brings nearest to his head. After you have found this out, let your fowl be held by a competent person so the inside of the leg is perfectly level. Cover the spur with a piece of damp kid or chamois skin so the socket of the gaffle fits tightly; also take a strip of chamois and wind around the leg on both sides of the spur. Then take your thumb and fore-finger and work the back toe of the fowl; while doing this you will see the leader of the leg rise and fall at the upper joint. Now be in mind which leg he brought up near his head, and set the gaff on a line with the outside of the leader at the upper joint of the leg, and the other gaff you will set on a line with the inside of the leader. Be careful not to set the spur too far in, as it will cause the cock to cut himself (although this is done oftener by setting the wrong

heel to the inside of the leader). When you have the gaffle arranged properly, tie it with good waxed ends, but not so tight as to cramp the legs or toes of the fowl; it is also a good idea to set the cock on a broomstick to see whether he can clasp it after the gaffs are tied on. Wet your finger and pull the toes of the cock so that they may not be cramped.

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BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Stir up an old pair of kid gloves, cut into strips about a quarter of an inch wide and as long as you can get them without seams. Get a ball of Barbour's show thread No. 10, or any other brand or size—I use that because I have it and the size suits me—make your strings of six strands, and wax as flat as you can with beeswax, do not twist them together. Slip the gaff over the spur and mark it a fraction above; saw them off, and you are ready for business. Now understand that I never tied on a pair of heels shorter than two and one-fourth inches, and do not claim to be able to set them to cut anywhere I want to, but to make the same cock do as much execution with the same heels as any one else. A gaff properly made and leathered has the right set up and out, and all you have to do is to put it down fair and square on the leg, pack it and tie it right, and say that we are using regulation or old-fashioned singletons. Get two chairs, use a log, or anything that will seat you and your holder on a level, facing each other. Have your cock held in as comfortable

a position as possible, so as to have him secure, and have the leg on the level. Try the gaff over the nub to see about how much packing is necessary; if the nub is small wind a piece of the kid around it tightly and smoothly, and then cross a couple or more pieces on it; if large and nearly fills the socket, use only cross pieces—enough so that when pressed down to its place the socket will be perfectly full, solid and firm. Now raise the foot and lower the eye so that you can sight exactly the location of the point. I always direct mine to the center of the muscle at the knee joint, which you can see plainly by moving the back toe a time or two: when you have that to suit you wrap the leathers smoothly and closely around the leg, and have the assistant place his finger on the lap and you are ready to tie it. Take two turns above the socket and tie a hard knot; bring the ends back toward you, one on each side, and tie half a knot behind the socket, take one turn, bring the ends up and loop each one over the blade and back, bring ends around underneath and up to the top again, once around, tie underneath or outside of leg. This gives you three rounds above, two at the bottom and one in the center of the leather, and the loops over the blades prevent any possibility of shifting. A gaff tied in this manner is as solid after a long fight as if it had grown.

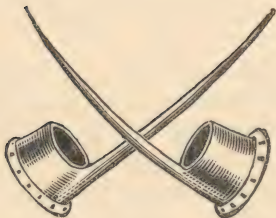
In tying use each hand the same; always get center of string across the top of the leather so that to make a round you have only to bring both ends

down and swap, to make another, both up and swap. Always dampen your kid with your mouth, as spittle makes it stick and pack better than if wet with clear cold water. When done, put him on his feet and keep him moving till ready to pit, so that he will not cramp any in the least. Never tie very light at the bottom or next to the foot; always have your cross pieces just long enough to cross the nub and reach the base of it, as the leg does not need any packing, only the spur. The quickest and easiest way of making strings for a pair of cocks is to take the end of the thread between your thumb and fore-finger, bring it over around your elbow up through the next finger space, then the next, then the next and back to the thumb and fore-finger; this gives you four complete rounds, and repeat as many times as you want strands in your string; cut at thumb and fore-finger, straighten out and wax, and it is just long enough to double twice and cut into four strings.

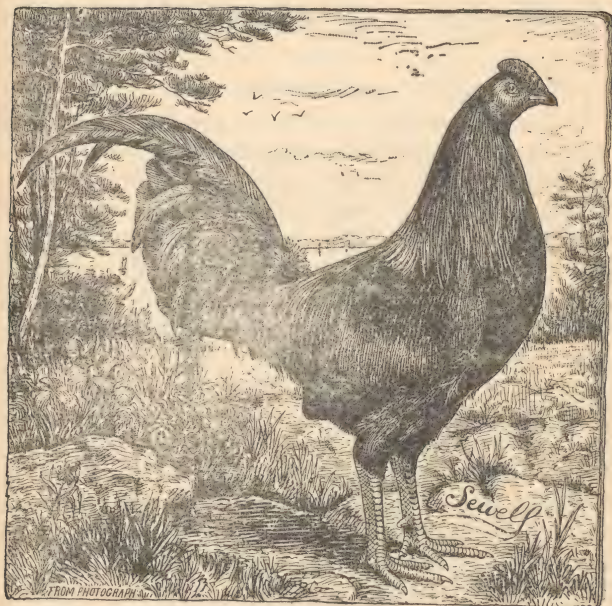
The following are the rules on heeling laid down by the late Dr. Cooper, and are very good for what they are intended—one and one-fourth inch heel:

“Let your fowl be held by a competent person; let him be held so that the inside of the leg is perfectly level. Cover the spur with a piece damp kid—an old kid glove cut up makes excellent leathers—so as to get the socket of the gaffle to fit tightly, and to prevent its turning or shifting. Then take your thumb and fore-finger and work the back toe

of the cock. While doing this you will see the leader of the leg rise and fall at the upper joint. You will set the right gaffle on a line with the outside of the leader, at the upper joint of the leg; and the left gaffle you will set on a line with the inside of the leader, at the upper joint. Be careful not to set the spur too far in, as it would cause the cock to cut himself. When you have the gaffle arranged properly, tie it with good wax ends, but not so tight as to cramp the legs or toes of the fowl. After the gaffs are tied on, wet your fingers and pull the cock's toes so that they may not be cramped."







WARHORSE COCK.



## CONDITIONING, OR FEEDING FOR THE PIT.

BY HOT SPUR.

I herein give my personal experience in feeding for the pit. I shall give a plain statement of the preparing for battle. I have raised Games for twenty-seven years and my method is as follows:

I bring them in off the walks, examine them carefully for fat and vermin. If lousy, rub the neck and under the wings good with kerosene; if roup or running at the nose, sponge the head well with warm water and castile soap, then apply some coal oil; two applications will generally suffice. Place them in coops or boxes 2x3 feet with some clean, dry straw with a yoke slide front for a door up and down; this will be plenty of room for air and not too warm in winter. I hunt up some old tin cans and cut them in two, leaving a handle or crook so as to fit over the cross piece at the bottom of the slide door, and the fowl will have no trouble in finding his food. I sometimes put a little carbolic acid 'n each, then cleanse with hot soap suds: this makes them perfectly cleansed as well as disinfected. This done I am ready for weighing, being careful to observe the fat ones from those in good flesh, and otherwise; seldom do I physi; the f t in a fowl will soon be detected by

flirting him a few minutes. For the benefit of amateurs let me say you will find nine of every twelve cocks poor instead of real fat, and the old method of reducing instead of strengthening I would warn you against. I find a cock becomes weary and tired in three or four minutes flirting. I watch him daily and feed him like the rest, after the first two days; then if he does not improve I reject him.

Having all the weights the first day I mark on the front of each coop, and note the increase and decrease of each bird for the first four days. A bird weighing 6 3-4 pounds when brought in will in condition weigh 5-14 or 6 pounds. The first twenty-four hours I feed nothing, but give plenty of pure water; the second day I flirt my birds five minutes each and give stale light bread after urinating on it or saturate with cider vinegar, either will act as a laxative to him; the same at night with plenty of water. The third day I flirt my birds ten minutes, morning and night, and feed by lamplight if the fighting is to be at night; in the morning a handful of pearl barley, after which a few swallows of water; in the evening repeat the barley feed. The fourth day I weigh the birds, clean out the coops and again mark their respective weights. From this to the day of the battle, which is the ninth or thirteenth day, they will gain some unless marked two or three times in the twenty-four hours; if all is right I work them seven minutes; if any sulkers, or have any doubts of one as a sparrer, I don the muffs and spar them till they



MEXICAN HEN COCK.

are well fagged; replace them in the coops and feed a handful of cracked wheat and flint hominy--the dryest and oldest to be had. One hour after this I give six or seven swallows of water to each, and repeat in the evening. The fifth day the same process is gone through, and the same the sixth day, except I give well baked corn bread with milk enough to moisten, only in the morning, and seven or eight swallows of water at night. The seventh day clean out the coops; let one cock out in the room one or two hours at a time to get gravel and scratch himself, until all have been served alike, which you will find greatly refreshes them. Now we come to the eighth day--clean the coops, flirt the birds five minutes each, note their weights again, and if any flame of discrepancy exists reject the fowl; replace clean straw and feed each a hard-boiled egg cut fine with a little cayenne pepper sprinkled on it. One hour after give seven or eight swallows of water to each; at noon wash the head, legs, and wattles with luke warm water--a little castile soap will not hurt; in the evening feed cracked corn and barley, one tablespoonful, a little water; no flirting or exercise after the morning of the eighth day. They will now need rest for twenty-four hours. The ninth day they will do to pit; if not, feed and work as before; no exercise. The tenth or fighting day feed sparingly of a white of hard-boiled egg. a little gunpowder on it cut fine, four or five swallows of water; sponge the head good with warm water and brandy; if to fight

at night feed in the middle of the afternoon and give about three swallows of water and one or two dry crackers; continue the same up to the thirteenth day if desired. Stags or fowls under one year old (I say this for amateurs) require a longer time than cocks—from thirteen to fifteen days, being five days longer, as a rule.

Now your fowls are ready to fight for your money, and if they do not win it is not because they had not the proper training and care or are out of condition. With good heeling and handling I have always got my share of the money; but let me say before I make my bow that this is my first or maiden effort in prize essay writing—and if I, an old man, should beat the boys and get the heels, what a laugh it will be on them.

There are three or four points of advantage in my feeding: One is there is no complication, nothing hard to understand—no physicking or purging the cocks, no steaming or sweating as of old, nothing to weaken or reduce the muscular parts of birds, no mysterious mixtures of cock bread as it is called, and nothing but what an amateur can see is plain and simple. This bothers them more than all else about cocking.

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BY W. B. RAGSDALE.

Of course all the old cockers have their own tried and established ways of doing this and will hold to them, yet this may interest them to read and com-



ment on. There can be no rigid set of rules governing all cases, and the greatest assistant you can possibly have around your coops is good commonsense. If you have cocks by the hundred you can pick out a few of them almost exactly in the same flesh and can treat them all alike, and even then you can see some difference in the strength and endurance of them; but where you have only a few and would like to take them all up and feed and fight you want a set of rules governing your case. There are scores of methods used, all of them having good points, but the greatest objection I find to them is that they require that the keeper have too much of a variety in the food. In a great many cases are too long; fact is, are not simple enough for a new hand. As we can not help the old and experienced we should extend a helping hand to the beginner.

First get ready to take up your cocks, which we take for granted you do in the day time. Make your coops to suit yourself, only have them airy and roomy; tack on the door of each coop a tag to keep the run of your work on. Have plenty of clean straw on hand and a pair of scales; provide yourself with a set of muffs, some nice clean wheat, pearl hominy and barley if convenient; if not it does not matter much; a feed cup for each stall—one cup will do to water all; a few fresh eggs, some oatmeal, and you are ready to take up your cocks.

Now sit down and study the subject over. The object of keeping your cocks is to do away with all





COMBATTANT DU NORD.

surplus fat, to fight them at actual bone and muscle weight; to add to their wind and endurance. Your cock in condition at five pounds fighting a fat one weighing exactly the same has an advantage of more than double the amount you have reduced yours after the first two or three minutes, for the fat bird heats inwardly, his breath gets short and he tires, and unless he has gained some advantage at the start is soon at the mercy of his opponent, who can hammer away at him for an hour or longer. Take up your cocks in the afternoon, weigh each one, examine each critically, put each weight on tag of his coop, also make note of condition of each and what you want to do. Fat ones should lose from eight to twelve ounces according to size; cocks in moderate flesh from three to six ounces, and those that are thin should gain a little. Give each all the water he will drink, but no feed at all. Early in the morning the second day tie on the muffs and spar them together till they are tired. After allowing them to rest and cool off give the fat cock a pill of ten grains each of cream tartar and jalap, those in moderate flesh a full feed of fermented wheat (made by pouring boiling water over night before and standing all night), which is very laxative, but do not purge like the physic, and the thin cock feed of fermented and sound wheat mixed—will sharpen their appetite wonderfully; about three swallows of water; at noon a small feed of the same to all but the fat ones; a little water all around; no exercise; in the evening

give them all a good feed of dry light bread crumbs moistened with hot water; mix a trifle of sugar with it. This carries us to the third day—weigh each cock, make note of weight, clean out coops and hand spar them; wash head and feet good, and give them all a feed of wheat, hominy and barley with half the white of a boiled egg chopped up with it. Continue this for ten days, or rather the balance of the ten days, and you will find your cocks able to fight long, hard battles.

#### NOTES.

Always give clean fresh water; wash your food before giving it; let your scales determine the size of feeds, so you see you must be careful in weighing; always look at the cocks on their walks yourself before taking them up. Be as regular in your exercise and feeding as possible; always exercise before feeding; by the time you flirt the last one the first will do to feed. Begin at say twenty-five flirts and increase a little daily; never tire them much after the morning of the second day, when you muff them, and do not let them together any more. If your cocks are bad to fight you, have a pair of thick soft gloves and when one bites you hold perfectly still and talk and cluck to him till he turns loose and he will soon see what you want; hold him so he can not strike you. You must exercise patience the first few days; after that they will take their handling as a matter of course and talk to you through it all. Remember that while you can physic a cock—make

him mighty sick and apparently he will be as well as ever in two days, that exercise is better than physic, and work and fermented wheat will do for all except the very fat ones.

For hand sparring as much preparation as is necessary is a coffee sack with a little straw in it on the head of a barrel placed close up in the corner of the room; you see he is hemmed in by the two walls of the room and you take up the other side, so if he is a wild cock he can not get away. Be careful not to squeeze or press the cock when flirting--by some practice you will get the knack of it. Some claim that eight days are enough and some that it can not be done in less than twenty one. The best winded cock I have seen fight in many a day was kept ten days on this plan. After the second day feed, water and exercise three times per day, and be sure and feed light on day of fight. Be careful not to feed more than they can rid their crop of between times.

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BY F. A. GARBUTT.

Feeding as generally understood includes all of the manipulation of fowl in preparing for the pit, from the time of taking off the walk. Perhaps there is nothing relating to cocking on which there is more diversity of opinion. All aim at the same result, namely: having the fowl in the best possible condition at the time of contest; but how different are the methods pursued. How scientifically do some treat

their fowl and how incongruously do others dose them. It is time, however, that science be taken more into consideration and the blindfold practice of following rules be discontinued. No one can follow the directions of another with equal success without using his own judgment, and the moment he does this he notices changes he would make. Indeed if he possesses a general experience as a cocker he could systemize his ideas and the result would be something probably far better for his own personal needs. The only use, therefore, of a paper on feeding is to give general ideas, as the great diversity of circumstances prevents any fixed rates.

#### WHAT IS GOOD CONDITION ?

A cock to be in good condition must be at the correct weight. That is, he must have no fat or superfluous flesh on him. This of course depends on the judgment of the feeder. The fowl must be strong and hard without being stiffened or having his quickness in any way impaired. His plumage should be in the best condition, as this will be found to affect his spirits more or less. A cock when not in good hard feather will generally fight slow. The fat should be almost entirely removed from his intestines by physic and exercise making him more rapid and enduring as well as lighter. The spirit too should be taken into consideration, as nothing affects the fighting more. He should be slightly reduced below his fighting weight and then allowed to come up, for when a cock is coming up he is full of vigor and vim



and if fought just as he gets to the top and before he begins to deteriorate he will now be at his best. It is impossible to hold a cock at this point, however, and it is more than folly to fight a hard fight while going down.

#### PHYSIC AND PHYSICKING.

At the beginning of conditioning a physic is usually given to work off the surplus fat around the intestines, and to cause the cock to throw his food regularly. Many substances are in use, the amount being determined best by experience and the manner by individual preference. What will weaken one cock will scarcely affect another. Jalap, cream tartar, rhubarb, epsom salts and magnesia have been used extensively; some even prefer castor oil. The following is a recipe for which the writer once gave ten dollars. It is very good and well worth the money, but must be varied to suit the different cocks; Coop the cock off the walk and give nothing but pure water for twenty-four hours. Then feed bread and milk with about one teaspoonful of cream tartar sweetened with white sugar to take away the sour taste of the cream tartar. In twelve hours feed boiled rice and molasses with two teaspoonsful of magnesia. There are no haphazard ingredients in this recipe, and in using no part should be left out. The whole when used with judgment forms a very convenient, safe and thorough physic, if the drugs employed are pure. For a stag the cream tartar should be omitted. In the long run much harm



is done by the injudicious use of physic, and a man will do better never to physic at all unless he can do so understandingly.

#### FEEDS AND FEEDING.

Feeds are of two classes--those producing mainly fat and those producing muscle. All substances containing much starch or sugar belong to the former and are to be avoided, as is also everything heating or stimulating. Fresh pure water is the best drink, and I prefer to keep it before my birds at all times--it should be changed often. There is much difference of opinion here, however, many preferring in some way to limit the supply of water. In feeding, fowl should have a variety and should never be forced to eat anything which he shows no liking for. Towards the last anything which will tend to physic is to be avoided. For feeding, clean cracked corn is good. I buy what is known as hominy, which is prepared for table use and contains no impurities. Wheat when of good quality makes a valuable change as also does barley. Some even make a steady diet of the former. Oats are not raised out West and I have never had the opportunity to use it, but would not deem it good for warm climates. Egg, either white or yolk, raw or boiled, forms a valuable and strengthening change, although the boiled yolk has a tendency to bind. Dry bread at least soaked in egg is excellent. If crackers are used they should not be soda crackers, but should be what is known as butter crackers. The parching of all grains is claimed

as an advantage by some—for what reason it is not known. A little well-cooked meat about the middle of feeding is good, and some chipped onions with it is an excellent tonic—which by the way differs from anything stimulating, in that one tones up the system while the other excites it. A little experience will show which food tends to increase and which to decrease flesh. A chicken's crop should be empty at feeding, but must not be left so any length of time, neither should they be stuffed full at a feeding. The cock must be handled and judgment exercised. Avoid all fancy messes and stick to wholesome foods. Climate and season should play an important part. Have an accurate pair of scales and weigh often.

#### EXERCISE.

Exercises of many different kinds and plays are an important part. Hand tossing and walking are good if carefully performed. A little rough handling will do much damage. Hand-sparring with a live or stuffed cock is much liked by many, but I think it makes a cock too wary for the gaffs. It might do for a slasher, and should be performed on a mattress or a lawn. Sparring with another cock should always be done with muffles, and when indulged in occasionally it wakes a cock up and makes him get down to his work. Carried to excess it will strain the muscles and make the fowl fight slow. Swinging on a large rope or swing of any kind is

without exception the meanest kind of work I ever tried, although many with excellent reputations hold it in high repute and attribute much of their success to its use. Walking in the yard followed by an attendant is very good, and possesses the advantage of giving the fowl fresh air and gravel—which last, by the way, will not meet with the approbation of all. Some like their cocks as “clean as a whistle” when they go into the pit, and not “half full of dirt” as they term it. It is a matter for one’s own judgment. Leg work should be given in abundance, as it is the legs which do most of the work, and a cock must be strong to hit hard in the last of a battle. Did any of the readers of this ever have a sparring match? If so, how did their arms feel after the second or third round, and how hard a blow would they then strike? Now a cock has to stand on his legs and strike with them too, besides doing much more moving. In walking in the yard, which is one of my favorite exercises, I use leg weights of about one quarter ounce each, with good results.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The time occupied depends on circumstances; from eight to fourteen days is about right. Stags require slight, if any, physic, and much less work; also less time, as they are more petful under cooping and do not harden like a cock. Their wind is better as a rule, and they are not so fat; work makes them sore. Never exhaust a cock; it does more harm than can

be repaid in many a long day. Compare the treatment of the race-horse and pugilist with that of the Game cock, making allowance when comparing food for the fact that they are respectfully herbivorous, omnivorous and granivorous--big words truly, but no small ones will express the difference. The coop should be as large as possible; a box stall is the best thing I know of. Ventilation must be good and the coops should be warm in winter and cool in summer. Handle your fowls so that they will take to you as their natural friend and ally. Avoid doses and give them nothing you would not take yourself. Let common sense enter largely in everything you do, and do nothing which you do not fully understand the purpose and effect of. No one should cock for profit; they are sure to get their nerve broken and quit; they must make their start, at least, from motive of pleasure. In closing I will say everyone, myself included, have methods of handling fowl which they deem well nigh perfect, and of which they could not be induced to divulge the fine points; perhaps it is just as well for the community at large that they can not; at any rate anyone can learn more, have better success and more enjoyment by practicing and experimenting for himself. The ideas which I have tried to set forth are good as far as they go, and they go as far as my poor pen can make them on paper. If I have succeeded in benefitting anyone or in awakening thought or discussion on this subject I shall feel amply repaid for the time



JAP GAME COCK.



spent in writing. All criticisms made in a gentlemanly spirit will be thankfully received, as I well know that many persons must possess different ideas.

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BY GEO. W. HIGGINBOTHAM.

The first thing to be provided is such a room as will admit of light and air. The next care is to provide such a coop as a cock can live in, which should be two and one-half by three feet and three feet high. Then provide a roost between the bottom and top; so put it that the feeder can take it down or put it up. Place the coops about three feet off the ground; under each place a barrel with a little straw in it. Now you are ready for feeding.

The first day cut the tail and wings and saw off the spurs; leave the spurs about one-fourth of an inch long, so they will come a little ways through the socket. Put your cocks up in the evening, weigh them and mark their weights down on each coop; late in the evening give all of them a sparring, place in the barrels, and cover warm till morning.

The second day, early in the morning, take them from the barrels and put them in their coops, then give each of them five grains of cream tartar with butter; in a few minutes give them a sparring and before returning them to their pen bathe their heads with vinegar and brandy. In the evening a feed of bread and water with a little sugar candy—a light feed; clean the pen from the effects of the physic, wash the feet and wipe dry. They must stay in



their tubs this night and be kept warm and not heated.

The third morning take them out of their tubs and put them in their coops; give each of them a good feed of boiled milk and warm rice; in the evening give them all moderate exercise by flirting; then give a feed of cracked corn wet with milk. Put them in barrels this night; keep warm; leave hole for air.

The fourth day, in the morning take them out of the tubs and put them in coops; give three times this—oatmeal and cracked corn—three swallows of water in the morning and the same in the evening. They may stay in coops this night; take the roosts down and keep warm with plenty of straw in the coop.

The fifth day, in the morning clean the pen, wash the bird's feet and face and wipe dry; give a feed of cock-bread and the white of a hard boiled egg; in the evening corn and barley mixed. Give water and skimmed milk thrice this day. They may go on their roosts this night.

The sixth day feed three times with scalded barley and rice; give water three times this day, three swallows each time. Leave in coops this time, but roosts must be taken down.

The seventh day, in the morning give oat bread; at twelve give white of a hard boiled egg; in the evening give exercise by flirting. Their drink must be cool spring water three times this day, not more

than three dips at a drink. They may go on their roosts this night.

The eighth day, in the morning feed all the cocks with oat bread and scalded barley; at twelve give feeding of oat bread and white of egg, cool water twice; in the evening pit all the cocks; after the sparring bathe their head and legs with vinegar and brandy and wipe dry. Give feed of cracked corn and put in barrels this night.

The ninth morning give the cock bread and barley; at twelve give white of an egg; in the evening give milk and rice boiled and warm; in the morning and at noon give cool barley water; flirt in the evening. They may go on their roosts this night.

The tenth day feed all the cocks with oat bread and cracked corn; in the evening feed all with hemp seed and white of an egg, water twice, three swallows each time; this evening wash the face and feet and wipe dry; give a little exercise but not enough to make sore. They must go in their tubs this night and be kept warm.

The eleventh morning, or day for fight, take them out of the barrel, put in the coop, give a small feed of barley and a few swallows of water; they are now ready for battle.

#### REMARKS.

Take up your birds eleven days before battle.

Never give more than three or four swallows of water at a time, or never leave water in reach of birds at any time.



Harrison Wein  
C. P. Dec. 1896  
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Do not over-feed; some cocks will require more than others.

Cock-bread is made of wheat flour with yeast, milk and eggs.

In no case give cocks cold water immediately after sparring.

Good bottomed fowls, well conditioned, with good heels, well put, will insure success.

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#### MORRISON'S RULES FOR CONDITIONING.

First catch up all the cocks that are to be conditioned, weigh each one and mark weight on the coop, this being the night of the eleventh day before the battle.

First day, or tenth day before the battle, for breakfast feed all the cocks a mush made of stale light bread and sweet milk--the richer the milk the better; no water this day. For dinner and supper feed same as above.

Second day to all requiring reduction in flesh feed the same as on the first day, without any water. To all others feed what they will eat of common coarse hominy, with about four or five drops of barley water. The barley water is made by taking clear spring water and putting it on the stove until it comes to a boil, take it from the fire and put to it about one-half teacupful of pearl barley, let it steep until the water is cool, when it is ready for use.

Third day treat the same as second, except this day your cocks should be exercised by either flirt-

ing on a pile of straw or spar with muffs--not too long. I prefer the muffling, for it gives the same motion they get in battle, and the proper muscles are worked on.

For all succeeding days proceed same as above up to the eighth day, when each of the cocks should have for breakfast the white of a raw egg; no water; for dinner and supper hominy and water as before; exercise freely on this day.

Ninth day feed as before, and let each of the cocks have about one hour's run in a large room, well ventilated; when his time is up, drop another one to him--both being muffed--and let them spar until tired; pick up the cock that has had the room and let the other one stay his time out.

Tenth day, or day for battle, do not feed such cocks as are to be shown in the main, but water and weigh them, mark the weight and description of the cock in your showing list so that you may be ready when called.

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#### BROWN'S METHOD.

First be sure that the cocks or stags have been properly walked. See that they have not been bossed or knocked around by old birds or turkeys. Look to the combs and faces to see the condition of your birds; if they are bright rosy red they are in good condition.

Have the coops made three feet square, all tight excepting the front, which should be made of slats



supplied with hinges and pad-lock. If you wish you can use a barrel for a coop and cut six inches out of one stave in the center of the barrel; fill up six inches with straw. If coops are used cover the bottom with clean straw free from must or mildew.

Have a portable roost in the coop that may be used if needed, in case any of the birds should physic out badly. Have each coop supplied with water and feeding cups.

When the cocks are taken up cut out the feathers around the vent and cut off the spurs. Wash head and feet with warm soft water and carbolic soap; rub dry with soft woolen rag; oil the face, feet and legs with sweet oil.

#### NOW BEGINS THE WORK.

First coop at night on the evening of the eleventh or twelfth day before the battle.

In the morning weigh all birds, marking weight on the coop. Handle each over very carefully; if any are fat give them more work than the thin ones; reduce their fat to muscle by means of work and exercise. For feed in the morning give good wheat bread soaked in milk; feed fat cocks less than those in fair condition. Never give more than they will eat up greedily—had better have them a little hungry than stuffed. For exercise have a table covered with thin, smooth-finished oilcloth, a little rounding in the centre; being filled under the cloth with straw. Place the bird on the table at one end, giving him a

push from one end to the other—hustle him along—make him work. Give a good exercise in this way. If the bird refuses to exert himself by pushing sideways, put your hand on his rump, trot him forward, whirl him around and trot him back. At noon before feeding give a few swallows of water; bread and milk, as before. For evening feed the same; handle birds to get them over being afraid.

Second day, in the morning and for noon feed the same with same exercise, excepting fat cock double the exercise. At this time you must begin handling the birds by lamp light. After feeding a light supper of bread and milk, about one hour afterwards give exercise by flirting, which is done by taking the bird in both hands, head facing you, palm of hands on each side, thumbs resting up over the back, the two outside fingers of each hand resting under the breast; or reverse bird, head from you; turn his head towards the ground quickly, reverse, with head up. Continue this until he shows signs of being weary, then allow him to walk about the room while flirting another, and so continue until all have been dealt with. After the exercise feed lightly. See that all currents of air are shut off of the coops, not even a knot hole or crack must be left in the coops. Do the ventilating through the large room, which must be governed by the time of year and atmosphere outside.

Third day take each bird out, wash the head, feet and legs with castile soapsuds and rub dry and ap-



RED PYLE GAME COCK.

ply a little oil. Let each one exercise in the room while preparing the other. Feed for breakfast some bits of well cooked meat, bread and pearled barley. Exercise on the table and allow each to fly at a light weight cock which you hold in your hand, dropping him down to the one on the floor and raising him again, which will bring the bird up trying to strike him; it gives good wing exercise. At noon give the same food with a good exercise; water before feeding with exception of a couple of dips of barley water after feeding each time from now on until the last day. At this time have ready fine gravel which place in each feed cup on the afternoon of that day. They must have gravel to grind their food.

Fourth day weigh birds, compare with first weight of each bird and mark down. If any fall away too fast increase feedings. For morning, bread soaked in milk and the white of a hard boiled egg; give a drink of water that has been taken from pearled barley after standing over night. At noon, boiled rice well seasoned with salt and pepper, barley water and the usual exercise. In the evening spar with the bird in your hand; feed pearled barley.

Fifth day feed the same as the fourth, and for exercise place the bird on your hand with a leg on each side and your other hand resting very lightly on the bird's back; this gives the wings and legs good exercise. With the four methods of exercise you will develop all that can be reached, and if properly

given has developed muscle of legs and wings, and increased lung powers.

Sixth day continue all the same with exception of bread. Use scalded barley for the morning feeding, rice for dinner and barley for supper.

Seventh day the same as the sixth, allowing water three times.

Eighth day feed bread and the white of a hard boiled egg for morning; at noon water and boiled rice; evening barley and water.

Ninth day, whites of boiled egg, bread, water; at noon boiled rice, water; evening barley and usual exercise.

Tenth day, or day of battle, give morning feeding of boiled egg and bread, on which drop several drops of brandy; several swallows of water. The same at noon if fight comes off in the evening.

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BY JOHN L. EICHBERG.

First see that your fowls are perfect in plumage, have good bright red comb and face, which denotes good health; a good appetite and passes good hard droppings and in good condition or good flesh.

Take up b'rds seven days before day of battle and spar, to see whether they are active, and on their feet. Then wash feet, legs and head of each in luke warm water; weigh each one and put in condition coop; have each coop absolutely clean, in it have plenty of soft clean straw, with a little insect powder sprinkled on it. Then feed small amount of



hominy and cracked corn. At noon feed a couple of tablespoonsful of barley. At night hand spar until the cocks begin to show signs of weariness then put in a coop, without a roost; after becoming cooled off, give full feed of hominy and plenty of water to drink--water having been boiled and allowed to cool before using.

Second day, hand spar until each cock is nearly winded, weigh, wash feet and head and put in coop. After each has become cooled off feed barley or bread made of oat meal; a few sips of water; at night hand spar, clean out coop putting in fresh and clean straw; feed all each will eat of hominy and allow a few sips of water. Continue this until the day before the fight. On this day feed in the morning and spar with muffs at night. Should any cocks on this day appear white or pale in the face discard them. Should any become dark in the face while sparring discard him.

Do not physic at all. The principle is, let your cocks eat heartily; if one will not eat one thing give him something else, but see that each eats well every day. A man can not work if he is starved, neither can a cock fight that is weakened by physic or lack of food; they should feel hard and corky. They must not be too thin, too fat is better than too poor, for the latter causes weak constitution.

The day of the battle if they are to fight in the forenoon give about four hours or so before the fight 1-2 of a hard boiled egg and just before pitting give

one sip of water. See that his feet and face are clean.

See that each cock is free from lice. The spurs are to be cut off of each cock the first day.

I do not believe in putting a poor cock in coop and bringing him up in weight, neither do I believe in reducing a real fat cock over eight ounces. Reduce the weight by hand sparring.

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'BY W. H. RIGHTMYER.

Weigh your cocks every day. A cock will probably come in off his walk fat and with a full crop; then give him no food for twenty-four hours. Cut off his spurs and weigh him; examine him closely—feet, bill, head, wings, etc., to see if he is in good form and health. Dust insect powder all through his feathers for lice; wash his head and feet with warm soft water and castile soap, with a soft sponge. Keep plenty of clean straw in the coop and shake it up twice a day and clean all droppings out, as some cocks will eat their own droppings. Give no physic; you can reduce your cocks fast enough without it, by work.

When a cock is on his walk he has a variety of food that he finds in his rambles, such as worms, bugs and ants, besides grass seeds and insect eggs. Now, to keep him strong and vigorous, we must not deprive him of these things, or he will become pale and weak. To supply this food artificially, we must give him a little lean meat, both cooked and raw.



ONE QUARTER JAP.

This furnishes him with the insect food: for grass, we must give a little onion. Also eggs and different kinds of grain, such as corn, barley and oats; oat meal is too fattening.

#### THE FOOD, METHOD AND EXERCISE.

Take one or two boards eight feet long, cover with carpet that has been woven fine. This is to run the cock on. Take a box two feet square, set it against the wall, tack a thick cloth or bag over the top and stuff straw or fine hay under it, making it as soft as possible. This is to flirt the cock on.

I feed my cocks wet food and then I am not compelled to give water to cocks while feeding, so each cock gets the same amount of water every day, as some cocks will get twice as much at one dip as another will. I mix my food in this way: Take hard, old dry corn and crack it; sift and blow out all the chaff and fine meal. Take one-half cracked corn, one-fourth whole oats and one-fourth barley. Mix the whites of hard boiled eggs—say for twenty cocks four or five eggs; twice a week I add a little stale bread, or crust of bread is best. Twice a week a little cayenne pepper and ground rhubarb, equal parts of each, just as if you were putting pepper on your own food. It gives a cock an appetite and keeps him fresh. Give eggs every other day, alternate with lean beef; one day raw, the next day cooked; say give the cock a piece of meat as large as a hickory nut. Put the water on the food so that after standing ten minutes there will be a little wa-

ter in the bottom of the vessel. Twice a week give a very small quantity of onion or sour apple—not enough to physic. The water you use must be boiled in an iron pot and then allowed to cool in an earthen vessel, and kept in a cool place. This kills all animal and vegetable nature in the water. At the latter part of feeding leave out a portion of the water and substitute Catawba wine. Give a cock only what food he will eat up clean, and be sure his crop is empty or nearly so before you feed him. Some cocks require more food than others, so you must watch them very close and govern feeding accordingly. Keep them a little hungry unless they reduce too fast; in that case give more food but only what they will digest; this you can tell by feeling of the crop at feeding time. If there is much in the crop do not give food at the feeding hour but a little water, extra, and put more pepper and rhubarb on the food for this cock. Your object is to get your birds to feel corky and light. Some will reduce more than others. Some reduce from six pounds down to five pounds six ounces; others will not, and many will reduce more. Do not cut a feather off of them until ready to fight, as they are liable to catch cold. Spar your cocks but once. The time to do this is when you bring them off their walks, and if you have one that can not spar throw him out, but be careful that you do not throw out one that is too fat. For exercise flirt your cocks, first by tossing them up about eighteen inches in the air, holding the body with the



head from you with both hands around the body over the wings, toss up and a little back; that is, as you toss raise the body backwards as if you were going to throw the cock on his rump; and by this he will endeavor to flop his wings and save himself. Continue this until he gets a little tired, then run him on the running board until he gets quite tired. Then rub him down—neck, breast, wings and legs. Do this until he cools off some, and put him in a tight coop or barrel and he will sweat out. Keep a few extra tight barrels for this purpose and remove the cool ones as you proceed, putting them in regular coops.

Take twelve or fifteen days in putting your birds in condition; dry out gradually and work to make their muscles hard and firm and to give wind. You must use judgment in feeding, exercising and reducing for the pit. Feed and exercise at the same hour every day and night. If you are going to fight at night use lamp light and do not darken the feeding-room during the day. Use your fowls carefully and avoid scaring them. If a cock comes in ugly, picks and bites, do not fight him or jerk from him; he will get over this very soon. Feed twice a day, night and morning.

Two days before the fight wash the fowls with rum and water—heads, legs and feet; dry thoroughly and rub with vaseline. On the day of the fight feed nothing but corn and the whites of hard boiled eggs, in the morning only. After the cock is

heeled for battle give two or three swallows of raw eggs and water with a little good brandy in it.

When they feel light and corky stop reducing them, but feed and exercise as usual to keep them hard and firm.

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#### SOUTHERN METHOD.

Here is my method of conditioning for the pit, and one I have from an old-time cocker—one out of the many I have seen who was the most successful in his fights.

Ten or twelve days is sufficient time to get cocks in condition to make a good battle.

Take up cocks from their walks, weigh them and cut off the spurs; tie on the muffs and spar all that match, so as to select nothing but the best fighters for your battles. Place them in the pit feeding coops on clean oat straw, with no food the first day, but a dose of castor oil and plenty of clean water.

For a morning meal give stale corn bread and sweet milk; for a change give rice and milk, just enough to keep them hungry all the time, but be careful and not starve them. Hand spar them twice a day, and keep clean straw in their coops. For an evening meal give chopped corn with a change of wheat, rye or barley. Keep plenty of coarse grit, which of course is necessary to chop up their food. Wash head and feet two or three times during the time of conditioning; always wipe dry before placing in their coops. Turn each cock loose in a large



CLAIBORNE COCK.

room with an old setting hen, if possible. This will give him fine use of his legs, as he will be sure to chase her around the room. Let him run with the hen an hour; this will also give him courage.

On the morning before fighting give them a soft but light feeding of stale bread and sweet milk, but no water.

Now, my friends, if you have given your cocks plenty of work to do and have not starved them out, you have done all that nature requires, and your cocks can not help but make you a good battle.

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#### EASTERN METHOD.

After taking the birds from the walk cut off the tail and heels. He is supposed to be sound and in good flesh. Place him in a box with clean straw, to be changed when foul. Feed nothing for twenty-four hours. Toss him twenty-five times, morning, noon and night. At noon the second day exercise by flirting, tossing or running up and down an inclined board by the tail, or balancing on a spring-board, with both hands around the body. After each exercise rub down for ten minutes, with the hands moistened with water. Allow to cool off thirty minutes before feeding. Feed raw egg; no water. At noon exercise, feed baked beans, three dips of water. At night exercise and feed bread.

Third day, in the morning exercise, feed raw beef steak chopped fine. At noon exercise; feed barley.

Exercise at night; feed baked pop corn, three dips of water.

Fourth day, in the morning exercise, feed the white of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. At noon exercise; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed dry bread, three dips of water.

Fifth day, in the morning exercise, feed baked oats, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed raw beef chopped fine. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Sixth day, in the morning exercise, feed raw egg, no water. At noon exercise; feed baked oats, three dips of water.

Seventh day, exercise in the morning, feed barley. At noon exercise; feed whites of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed baked pop-corn, three dips of water.

Eighth day, in the morning exercise and feed baked oats, three dips of water. At noon exercise; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed dry bread, three dips of water.

Ninth day, in the morning exercise, feed barley, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed chopped raw steak, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Tenth day, exercise in the morning, feed baked oats, three dips of water. At noon exercise and feed barley, three dips of water. Exercise at night, feed dry pop corn, three dips of water.

Eleventh day, in the morning exercise and feed



the whites of hard boiled eggs, three dips of water. Exercise at noon; feed barley, three dips of water. At night exercise; feed bread soaked in boiled milk, no water.

Twelfth and last day--no work this day; feed warm baked oats, three dips of water. At noon feed barley and give three dips of water. At night feed dry bread, three dips of water.

The day of fight give three dips of water. If a cock gets feverish during training a few drops of nitre in his water will reduce it.

Exercise to be of thirty minutes' duration three times a day. As soon as the cock has quit eating of the food remove it.

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#### GEORGIA METHOD.

I send my rules on conditioning cocks as my cousin, Thomas J. Bacon, of Johnston Station, Edgefield county, S. C., now sleeping his last long sleep, practiced with wonderful success and taught me.

I first build their coops six feet high and four feet square, close at bottom up to four feet; then nail on laths, leaving two inch spaces between each the remaining two feet. I place a good, large pole in for a roost, four feet from the ground.

I then bring the two-year-old cocks in from the walks, as he told me never to bet my money on any stag. Trim or clip the feathers, soak the legs up to the knees in a warm solution of turpentine and kerosene oil.

Make a box and place it in a box two inches larger; pack between with good horse dung, clean from straw or litter. Give the bird one tablespoonful of lard and a little salts; place the bird in the box and cover up except the head, allowing him to take a heavy sweat, and purge freely. Then remove and place him in the coop until morning, keeping a blanket over the coop to avoid his catching cold. In the morning I give a teaspoonful of burned loaf sugar soaked in good blackberry cordial.

Now my birds are ready to begin to condition. I give for food in the morning stale light bread soaked in milk; in the evening give cracked parched corn. Birds are so arranged in coops that they are just out of each other's reach, and they are continually trying to get to each other and flying upon the roost and jumping down. They should be muffed and shuffled good once each day, just before feed time. I always weight my birds' legs with small sand bags when shuffling. I hand-spar two or three times each day by placing one hand between the bird's legs and the other on his back and quickly raise him up in the air and then as quickly down again, allowing him to kick and flap his wings, which he will greatly enjoy. Every other day give brown parched corn; put twenty drops of tincture of rosemary and same of brandy in a half cup of water; put in the corn and set on the stove to steep good; soak stale light bread in and give two tablespoonsful to eat. Put one-half teaspoonful of good vinegar in a teaspoonful



DUSTY MILLER.

of water and give to the bird. Catch the bird firmly with both hands and sling. Wash his face and legs. I never give whole grains of corn to eat. I like wheat, doahra corn, German millet seed, chicken corn, barley soaked in brandy, water and a little asafoetida added. If the birds are too fat I place them in smaller coops and make each sleep on horse dung and give all the work they can stand, and they will come to hard-pan in quick order. I shuffle birds of as near weights as possible. I am very particular to clean each bird's lungs every morning. Catch the bird with both hands, stand him on a table, press him down till his body touches the table, and work him back and forth for some time. Bathe the feet and legs often, pulling each toe well. Keep the bottom of the coop covered with sand to prevent corns on the feet. Keep the gravel box full.

I only let the birds have full daylight while shuffling, as my coops are built in a dark cock-house. After each shuffle grease the bird's head and face with vaseline, containing two or three drops of glycerine.

Just before fighting a bird I give him a good lemon cocktail. I never give birds water to drink. Sweet milk with a little brandy is my substitute. Birds need some rest and some sleep, and I see that they get both.

The rule was to put birds up fifteen days before the fight, but never fight a stale bird.

## CONTESTANT NUMBER ONE.

I enclose my method of feeding for the pit: The time necessary for a stag is ten days; for a cock two weeks. First, choose a bird whose comb is a bright scarlet, and who is active in his motions. If he is fat, as he probably will be, I prefer to work it off by exercise instead of physicking him. Choose a good packing box, without cracks, about four feet square, nail laths on the front and cover the bottom with earth, which must be changed daily. Also put in a fresh sod of grass and some cracked oyster shells every day. Nail a perch—a three inch wide one—through the middle of the box for him to roost on. On the first day flirt him morning, noon and night on a mattress until he becomes winded, then, while he is getting his wind again, move him quickly from right to left and vice versa; also forwards, then flirt him again. This exercise must be increased daily, accordingly as the cock improves; also spar him with another cock, if possible not the same one each time. Feed, when cool, on white of eggs, boiled, and Bent's water crackers, chopped up. Give him all that he will readily eat up. His food must be varied and can consist of raw beef without fat, this will act as a laxative; corn and barley bread, wheat and any green food can be fed. Instead of plain water let him drink oatmeal water three times a day, only about six good swallows at a time. On the day of the fight trim him, feeding in the morning lightly. I do not approve of cutting off all but a few inches



of the tail, but prefer to cut out nothing but the sickles and just about two inches of the fan. Follow the line of the wing feathers, cutting them pointed, taking off an inch and a half; neck, saddle and rump trimmed as usual.

G. M. W.

#### NUMBER TWO.

I would get cock ten days before battle and cut spurs off; at evening put on roost where he is in the habit of roosting. Would not stop flow of blood if he did not bleed excessively. Second day examine bird and see that he is free from lice, and if any remove them by applying insect powder. Give a light feed of wheat bread, a couple of days old, dipped in warm new milk; keep very quiet; give a mixed feed each noon in small quantities, such as meat scraps, baked potatoes and apples, also plenty of fresh water, except second day. Each evening give a good feed of small hard corn, but do not let him stuff himself. Examine the bird each morning and see if the corn is digested; corn should be out of crop. The amount of feed should be governed by size and fatness of cock. Give an ordinary feed of corn twelve hours before battle; keep plenty of gravel before bird.

I would flirt bird after third day each morning till nearly winded; also throw in air once a day, say half a dozen times each time. Get bird used to light if battle is in the night. Let cock run in a warm small room in the daytime after third day; also place a laying hen with him for a couple of hours each day. Let him see a cock of the color he is to



fight, if possible, and let him strike with such about a half dozen times the fifth day. Let him see the cock each day after and let fly at same (holding the cock in hands) but not to get hold. Show your cock a coward bird a short time before battle and let the cock chase him for a few seconds.

A cock may be game and still not fight with the confidence he should: therefore, one of the chief features in fitting a bird is to give it confidence. I think if you fit a bird by the above method he is ready to fight the battle of his life. O. H. P.

#### NUMBER THREE.

About two weeks before the main is to be fought I go to my walks and thoroughly examine the birds and select such as appear in good health and full feather. I take each one in turn and give him a lively set-to with another cock to see how he handles himself. All that pass examination are then cooped. I use small houses, 6x8 and seven feet high in front, and five feet at back, shed roof. I generally coop four or five more cocks than I expect to use so as to be able to meet emergencies, selecting the best only for battle. I never pit a cock that does not show good health and high spirits. I put cocks in coops, say in the afternoon, and next morning give each one a cathartic, followed in two or three hours by a half ounce of sharp, broken flint about the size of wheat grains. I keep water by them for the first two days, and after that period I give them only about three or four swallows about noon each day.

In case the cock is very fat I put cold sweet milk in his feed, and then I do not let him have so much water. I give as a ration, three times a day, a cake made of equal parts of oatmeal and barley, seasoned with salt slightly, and whites of eggs, using judgment as to quantity, and see that no food is left over by the bird at each meal.

I work my birds principally by flirting, by walking them between my hands over the yard, and by taking a cock in my arms and showing him to the one I am training and letting him strike at the one I carry, and then I run from him and repeat the work until he begins to tire; I then put him in his coop. By "flirting" I mean tossing the cock in the air four or five feet and letting him alight on a bag of leaves until he shows signs of fatigue. The exercise is light at first, but I gradually increase it each day. I never press a cock so far as to tire him out.

After I get the cocks down fine to the bed-rock, I give them in addition to their cake a little lean raw beef for their breakfast, about double the quantity for dinner (say one ounce) and two ounces for supper with a little cracked corn. Also I give them the white of a hard boiled egg for breakfast, and I always give them exercise before breakfast, light at first but increasing each day. Cocks' heads are sponged each day, after they cool off from exercise, with equal parts of Kentucky whiskey and vinegar. Houses are kept clean, and the floor is littered every day with fresh leaves, and bird's feet are kept clean-

For four evenings before battle cocks' heads and feet are washed with urine, followed next morning by lukewarm water, and wiped dry. Never leave a cock in a draft while cooling from exercise. I get thoroughly acquainted with my birds before pitting them. I give them pure spring water, and never let them drink while heated from exercise. I usually trim a few hours before battle in warm weather. In cold weather I trim just before going into the pit.

O.

#### NUMBER FOUR.

In the first place, the cock is examined to see that he shows close, hard feather; also that he shows good deep color—healthy red around his head and eyes—and that he is perfectly free from lice or red mites. Then he is placed in a large barn, where he can have plenty of chance to fly from the floor to the scaffold and great beams of the barn. This tends to strengthen his legs and increases his wing power. The floor of the barn should be literally covered with chaff or June hay. His feed should be hard black oats in the morning, which is thrown into the chaff and raked over with a garden rake until it is thoroughly mixed with the chaff; then as soon as he discovers the oats in the chaff he will have to scratch for all he gets, and should not be allowed to have enough to stuff himself. This gives him exercise and makes him quick, wiry and strong on his legs. Usually during the day he is fed on very small quantities of barley, and good, clean water twice a day

—not allowed to drink large quantities of it. In the evening he is taken from his perch and tossed one-half hour or more. This will keep him tame and gives him more wind.

His feed should consist of black oats, barley and buckwheat; hard baked bread changed alternately; in order to keep his appetite good. Occasionally through the day I feed a little hard boiled egg, and sometimes a small piece of thoroughly cooked beef. He should be fed this way for eight or nine days.

Usually on the third and sixth days he is sparred with a muffed cock of his own lot. On the seventh day I usually place him with a good dunghill cock, one that is a good runner and flyer. He is allowed to race him at his heart's content; if the dunghill cock shows fight so much the better. He should be fed lightly and regularly up to within four or five hours of the battle. His last feed should be oats and a very little fine chopped beef—not allowed to have what he wants, as his crop should be perfectly empty when he goes into battle. His legs and feet should be perfectly clean, and should he be in good health he should have lots of endurance, and make a desperate fight to win when he goes into battle on the tenth.

L. W. F.

#### NUMBER FIVE.

Conditioning a cock is the bringing of that fowl to a state of perfect bodily health—a state where every muscle is at its utmost strength and pliability, every sense alert and keen and every organ of respiration

capable of expansion to its utmost limit without strain or tiring. To do this and bring every nerve and muscle at its proper tension at a specified time, no more, no less, necessitates regular feeding with suitable food, care that the digestive organs work evenly and smooth, and that exercise is administered nicely and with gradually increased severity, so that the last particle of superfluous flesh is muscle, hardened just sufficiently on the day of pitting. This, too, must be done in a time so short that confinement will not have dulled the spirit and alertness of your cock; spirit is push, and push is what you're after. To avoid long confinement see that your cock while on the walk is kept in good health, and flesh enough when hardened to furnish the required muscle. For a cock in such flesh two weeks should be sufficient time for conditioning.

Coop in good even temperatured place, sunlit; supply with good, clean straw, and a perch to roost on of sufficient size, that he may rest easily and not have to grip to keep on top, and while in use keep coop clean and free from bad odors. Fasten the drinking cup so he cannot tip it over, and for the first week give plenty of clear water. Feed with sound old corn (I crack it in a coffee-mill set wide), alternating occasionally with barley, hulled oats, and a little lean meat; feed as much as he will eat readily and cleanly at one time, and keep grit near him; avoid oily food. Extra care should be taken to keep appetite on edge; stimulate appetite with



work; never physic or bind unless absolutely necessary, then use very little castor oil for physic, and to bind give three drops of laudanum in teaspoonful of water. This will stop griping. In the short winter days I work him in the morning, let cool, and feed about eight o'clock; feed again at one o'clock, and work at three, or soon as digestion is finished, then feed again at six. This will be by lamp light and accustom him to this kind of light. The last four days water him only before each feed; feed light on the morning of last day, and give sup or two of water, if possible, just before setting down.

Never spar him with other cocks unless just enough to guage his speed. It is apt to make him sore and feverish and cause fretting. To exercise him get a box or bench about hip high, cover or pad it so it will not bruise his feet, and place him on it facing directly from you; grasp him on each side under each wing, thumbs behind wing and fingers in front inclined upwards, then with a quick motion, free from jerks, lift him upwards and backward, letting him drop unassisted. This motion, when properly executed, throws the whole bird in very much the same series of attitudes assumed in making a "fly," and brings in play every muscle of the body, the muscles of wings, legs and neck especially. Regulate violence of exercise by the quickness and height of upward and backward pull. Begin moderately, don't overwork or strain; work him gradually faster, with as little fretting or scaring as pos-

sible. The key to success is in knowing what is height of condition and how to focus it at the proper time, and to do it smoothly and without the use or need of physics or other trash. Learn to guage condition and you're "in town." Nobody will ever tell you

DENNIS.

#### NUMBER SIX.

Pick a good, healthy cock off the walk; cut off spurs, leaving about one-half inch stub to set heel on; if too fat, and a large cock, you must reduce him hard and strong, if a small cock two to four ounces is enough. Use good commonsense in this as there is no fixed rule.

First day.—Place him in a box not less than three feet square, with four or five inches of straw in it, no feed, but a few dips of water.

Second day.—Give him a cupful of bread and milk (warm) to physic him; this is mild and will clean him out thoroughly. Immediately after eating spar him with a cock of near his own weight until they show signs of fatigue. Take equal parts of brandy and vinegar, wash his head and legs, wipe dry and put him in box till next day.

Third day.—Take one-half cup of oats, cracked, and hominy, soaked. Give him this in the morning with about five dips of water; toss him on a bag of straw until he begins to breathe hard; clean out his box and put in clean straw, and same feed in the evening.

Fourth day.—Weigh him and see what he is do-

ing: if not reducing fast enough give him more exercise. Morning feed same as previous day, only add a little raw fresh beef chopped fine: toss on bag from fifty to sixty times: exercise every day as much as possible, feed and water same as morning.

Fifth day.—Now feed him hominy and barley, with five dips of water: weigh and see if he is coming down to suit you; keep him good and strong—better have him too strong than too fine: toss on bag until he is tired. Wash his head and legs as before: put clean straw in pen: give him same feed as morning, with same amount of water. Never give him water when he is warm.

Sixth day.—Same feed and water as previous day, with a half hard boiled egg, yolk and white. Some feeders give only white, but I say not. Now tie gloves on a good, fast cock: let them spar till they tire; wash his head and legs as before, wipe dry, and toss on bag.

Seventh day.—Feed and water same as usual: toss on bag; morning and evening give him all he will stand, wash him off each time, and give clean straw.

Eighth day.—Shake up straw in box, give him three or four dips of water: no feed: wash and dry head and legs. Put him in box ready to pit him. Give a few grains of soaked barley before heeling him. Birds fed in this manner I have found to be in excellent order for a long or short battle. This is my own method of feeding and is taken from no established rule.

F. G. H.

## NUMBER SEVEN.

If, say, you are to fight a fifteen cock main, condition two top-weights and two bottom-weights, so if anything should happen to either top or bottom weights you have one in readiness. Pick out your best cocks, of weights so that you will be able to match as many of your opponent's cocks as possible. Commence by sawing off the spurs just short enough to come through the socket of the heel; cut a few feathers away from the cock's vent, then dust him all through his feathers with insect powder. Examine them thoroughly to see they are perfect in health, perfect in body, legs, wings, neck, beak, eye, etc. Have your coop large and warm, and your feeding-room well ventilated, but no draughts. Commence at night and give a little physic of castor oil, then tie on muf and spar your cocks: pair them off about equal weights. If any of the cocks fight too low-headed, or turn black in the face, throw them out and substitute others. Give them a good sparring until tired and you can then tell how they will act when fighting for your money: then take them up and put them in a warm coop, by closing up all openings: this will keep them from catching cold and they sweat out. Next morning feed a little bread and milk with a little raw egg and a little sprinkling of cayenne pepper. After they have eaten clean their coops and put in clean straw. Give them what water they want to drink the first day. The second day commence to do business with them;

have two boards twelve feet long, tack carpet woven tight over the boards and stuff fine oats straw even under carpet. This is to run and flirt your cocks on for the first five days; run them over the stuffed board for about three minutes each time and flirt them twenty-five times and increase until you have flirted each one hundred times. Use judgment in running them, as some cocks can stand more than others. Place your hand on the rump just under the tail, your other hand gently on their back, and just lift up a little, while running them, with the hand you have on their rump, and they will not try to sit down, but will run right along. In flirting them place one hand on the breast and the other on saddle; toss up and throw a little backward, as if you were trying to throw them on their tail; they will use their legs and wings to perfection. When tired by running and flirting them hard, rub the neck, wings, back, thighs, legs, etc. Then put him in a very tight coop to cool off slowly and to sweat. Commence on the others in the same manner. When this is all gone through with feed them. You can never condition a cock by feed alone, work is the most important part. Drying a cock out by not giving water is not conditioning; it dries out the flesh, makes the cock flesh-bound. His flesh is not springy and firm, so, I say, give plenty of water. Boil the water in an iron pot and set it away in an earthen vessel to cool; this kills all impurities in the water. For feed you must not give one kind all the time; they



need a change to keep them in health. One day feed wheat, cracked corn with meal and chaff all sifted and blown out—say wheat one-half, corn one-fourth, barley one-fourth, with a little hard boiled egg mixed. Next day feed corn, oatmeal, pearl barley, with a little lean beef chopped fine. Mix a little cayenne pepper twice a week over the food—say, oatmeal one-fourth, pearl barley one-fourth, wheat one-fourth, corn one-fourth; every third day give a little sour apple or raw onion. Keep this up for thirteen or fifteen days with their exercise and your cocks will be fit to fight for your life. Water them at noon every day, giving them five dips. If any of your cocks reduce too fast feed more lean meat and not so much barley: too fat cocks give more barley and use judgment. Tack on each coop the weight of each cock the night you coop them; weigh every day and compare weights. A cock weighing 7-0, if fat, should be reduced to 5-14, a 6-0 to 5-0, 4-7 to 4-0. Cocks that are very thin should go up until they are light and corky; fat cocks the same, but should be reduced. Their flesh should feel elastic, and when you handle them they try to fly out of your hands, not by fright but by good feeling. Have gravel and oyster shells in a heap on the floor; let the cocks down to this and they will scratch and pick up what they need.

## NOTE.

A few hard bread crumbs or crackers mixed with other food is good to give them an appetite; never

feed a cock if you find much feed in his crop at feeding time, but give water with a little Catawba wine in it. Four days before the time to fight give Catawba wine in their drinking water, it puts new life in them. Your aim should be to take all inside fat out of your cocks; by a little experience you can tell when your cocks are in condition; thirteen or fifteen days are none too long. If you have a warm room put sand on the floor and let your cocks in it and get sunshine. It will do a great deal of good. Wash the cock's head and feet in lukewarm water containing rum or cider brandy, wipe dry and grease with vaseline. Do this every fourth day. If your cock is ugly and will strike and bite, use him gently, stroke his head lightly and talk to him (cluck-cluck); if he gets hold of your hand do not jerk it, but talk to him and he will soon be as gentle as can be wished. Do not work your cocks the day you fight them. The last feed should be in the morning if the fight is at night—barley and white of hard boiled egg. If the fight is to take place in the night darken your coop in the morning and let your cocks be as quiet as possible; this rests them and they will sleep and be in superb shape when you place them in the pit, and be sure to set your cock down first in the pit when time is called. Never shove your cock, but set him down quickly and gently. Never allow any smoking in your cock-room, it stops your cocks all up and is not good for them. Keep the air in room pure; coops clean, and straw fresh every two days.

Stags need only eight or ten days to condition, and not so much work; hand rub them more, it is the finest exercise for a stag. Do not spar your stags. Do all understandingly what I tell you and you will win the majority of mains as I have done.

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#### SOUTH AMERICAN METHOD.

Between the ninth and tenth month, if in good condition, he has to show of what quality is his stuffing. As a trial he is made to face another stag of his own age and size, but not related, for the space of fifteen minutes. This over, he has to undergo a general sponging over with Tinguasiba and spirits of wine diluted in equal parts of water, and let loose in the sun to dry.

Tinguasiba is a Brazilian root, supposed to have the effect of hardening the skin and otherwise used internally and externally for the same purpose as arnica is prescribed. Birds are always sparred first thing in the morning of fine days as they are somewhat liable to disense when badly knocked about in rainy weather.

According to how he looks, a week or a fortnight after his first trial, he has a longer job, say of twenty or twenty-five minutes to tackle, and most always better matched. If not much harm has been done at the end of twenty minutes, the sparring is continued to the half hour. As long as they exchange blows on the neck and head, all right and good, but in the case of a body-striker he is put

aside to do his sparring with the tough old cocks kept for the purpose, as experience has shown that the necks of cocks become harder and stronger the more they are sparred or fought, but the contrary is the effect of the blows over the body. Many a stag has been lost for pit purposes by having, through carelessness or too much confidence, been sparred with a body-striker.

Here again the sponging process is gone through; very few use salt and water in preference, and in addition, a little sweet-almond oil is rubbed over the head and other exposed parts which may have been chafed or bruised.

At this point the fittest are picked out, much admired and petted, and the rest are potted on certain specified days, or sold (cheap?) if the lucky star is about somewhere near. For the next month or so the remaining ones are fed generously to put on weight and to increase in strength.

After a month's good feed on the fat of the land, our hero has to take a lesson from an old stager who will be, the best part of the time, striving to break his opponent's neck and head. If no accident happens in the way of a broken beak or spur, an eye out or hurt, this excitement lasts one hour. If the stag has not been able to do some of his best tricks with the cock, it is usually the custom to match him again two or three weeks hence to a slower cock, for say thirty minutes, to ascertain that nothing has gone amiss with him. The stag,

after a couple of weeks more care, spent in eradicating sore marks, trimming broken feathers, and final overhauls, is considered ready to appear in the pit with twelve months experience to back him up.

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#### CONDITIONING IN SCOTLAND.

As perhaps some of your readers would like to know a little about feeding for battle in this country, I will endeavor to give the mode of training cocks for the pit, as practiced by myself and others I know in this country. Many birds do not stand the system of training they are put through and often break down when one would think they were doing fine, therefore make it a study to have an extra bird or two up when feeding a main.

I like coops best which are fixed in the ends of the house, with slots for putting in or pulling out the partitions, so that the less cocks you have up the more room you give them; say you had six coops in each end, three above and three below, three feet square each, if you had only two cocks up for each end you could pull out the partitions and make the three coops into one, if four coops for each end put one of the partitions in the center slot, that would give each bird four and one-half by three feet of coop room. Give all the room you can—the more the better. After you have got all the birds up the sooner you get to business the better. Examine each bird properly and see that he is in good health;



muffle them in pairs and give them a good hard spar and throw out any that don't please, any that should fall on their tail too often or be weak on the legs.

Now, use judgement and pick out birds that will require to be physicked to reduce, only very fat ones; far better if you can reduce them with work; for those that require physic give a feed of what we call saltpetre bread, made from half a pound of flour, a little sugar, soda and cream of tartar with as much saltpetre as you can lift on a sixpence, made into dough with water and fired. This is a severe physic. Give the others a feed of bread and sugar with a little warm water; this will clean them out properly. Weigh next morning and see how you are. For feeding there is nothing to be compared with plenty of fresh eggs. Breakfast at seven in the morning. If any of your birds be too lean and you want him to rise, give him raw egg yolk and white; to others give hard boiled white of egg and water biscuits, softened with warm water; at nine work them; toss on a mattress and run them back and forwards, holding by the wings with two of the fingers at the stern, gently pushing them forward. Don't be too hard on them at first, but gradually give them more as they get stronger. Dinner at twelve: give egg bread; this is bread leavened with raw eggs instead of water, with a pinch of cinnamon, but no salt. Work again at four. Supper at six; a good feed of hard dried bar-

ley. Water twice a day; at ten and three give filtered rain water as much as they will take at first and gently decrease: if any poor ones, give port wine to drink.

Ten to fourteen days is the usual time allowed to feed a cock, and a stag eight to ten days. After six or seven days' feeding an experienced eye will observe that the color of the head begins to get richer in the red and the cheeks gradually rise until you would think the face was going to burst. It generally takes five or six days from the time you noticed any improvement until the cock reaches the highest pitch of condition. This must be the aim of the feeder to have the birds at that when they have to fight. They will stand at that for two days and then they will rapidly go out of order. It is far better to fight a cock that wants a day or two than one that is the same going back.

If your cocks are not reducing quick enough wind them three times a day; don't give too much at first, but bring on gradually as their wind improves. Give fresh straw every day if you can get it; if not, be sure and give every two days. Nothing will keep birds in better spirits than plenty of clean straw to scratch in. It is hardly possible to condition cocks without this. Always see that your cocks are open in the bowels; if not, give a good feed of oatmeal cakes; this is the best I know for regulating the bowels without purging. A feed of boiled barley will do it, but often makes them too open.

Give no more than the cocks can digest between meals. Never feed a cock when he has food in his crop. Sometimes the crop gets soured and the food does not get off. A small piece of raw onion given will soon fix that and bring the bird all right in the way of digestion.

Weigh each cock every day and take a note of his weight to let you know how he is doing: mark the date and weight together. A cock in good condition will not drink water, merely dip their bill and shake the water off.



SKINNED HEAD.

## SICK FOWLS.

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### ROUP.

The first symptom is a peculiarity in the breathing: the skin attached to the wattle begins to rise and fall—afterward a whooping sound in the throat and fetid discharge from the nose. This disease is contagious, and is produced in many instances by cold, damp and windy weather. As soon as a fowl shows symptoms of roup, separate it from the rest, and put it in a warm box or barrel with straw or hay in the bottom. Bathe the head and throat with warm salted water, after which, with thumb and forefinger, open the eye, and with the end of a rag saturated with the salted warm water wash it well.

### PACKED CROPS.

It is often seen a hen or cock in the breeding yard dumping around not offering to pick up its rations with its mates, and on investigation its crop is found packed hard and rather feverish. This is not a dangerous ailment always, if not treated, but one simple and easy treatment sets all things right again. Take one table spoonful of pure linseed, castor, or sweet oil and pour down the chick's throat. After it is well swallowed work the crop carefully with the fingers, which will mix the oil through the hard

packed substance. Sometimes a second treatment is needed.

#### FROSTED COMBS.

If the fowl is discovered before the comb, wattles, or toes have thawed out, hold them entirely covered with snow, or in ice cold water, until the frost is entirely gone. Then keep them thoroughly oiled with glycerine. Do not allow them to become hard and dry, but keep them soft, and they will lose but a small part of the frozen members, and in many cases the toes can be saved entire. But if the frost has disappeared before a remedy is applied, all that can be done will be to keep the frozen parts from drying up, by frequent applications of glycerine.

#### SCALY LEGS.

Scaly legs or "scab" is the work of a minute parasite, and is easily removed. There are preparations advertised for the purpose, but home-made remedies will serve to eradicate it, and such can be made cheaply. One plan is to mix a teaspoonful of coal oil with half an ounce of lard, and rub it well into the legs. Do this twice a week for two weeks, and the legs will be clean. The coal oil changes the color to a white for a little while on some fowls, but, if preferred, a tablespoonful of sulphur may be mixed with the lard instead of the coal oil, which will remove the scales without discoloration, but neither remedy should be used in damp weather.

Two or three applications of lard and sulphur, in equal parts, applied thoroughly will effect a cure in



all cases. Sweet oil and turpentine thoroughly applied is another good remedy.

#### CANKER AND TREATMENT.

Canker is a very troublesome and unsightly disease to which Game fowls are largely, and all other domestic birds, more or less liable at certain seasons of the year, and under certain circumstances. Game cocks will contract canker from going through their "exercise" in the hands of their trainers, when they are allowed to spar with each other, while preparing for future use in the pit. The handler puts two young stags beak to beak to test their courage—after muffling their spurs, so that serious injury can not be done to either during their sparring practice—and they peck at each other's heads, wounding the cheeks and edges of the mandible, often, in this way. The sores thus created subsequently fester and canker ensues.

— In a similar way older Game cocks, after fighting a battle or two, have their heads and beaks lacerated in the contest; and without extra care afterwards, these wounds show canker, especially if the bird takes cold about this time.

When new hens are purchased and placed among the old flock of adults they will quarrel, and in this way cause sores about the heads and bills of each other, which will ripen in cold weather to canker.

Numerous other instances are complained of by purchasers of fowls, who discover soon after the birds arrive at their new homes that this affection

shows itself. And if these diseased fowls go through the brush with others in their new quarters, the canker is communicated to many of the flock, which sometimes proves a very serious matter.

There is no need that this disorder should prove fatal in its character, however. It is as easily remedied as is any ail common to poultry. But it must never be left to cure itself. If the disease is discovered—and it will be, almost universally, in such cases as we have mentioned—the first thing the breeder should do is to take care of and drive it away from his fowl premises.

#### CURE FOR CANKER.

Take the fowl affected and scrape off the canker, if the blood starts it will do no harm. After the scab has all been removed, place on the sore some fine table salt, or pulverized burned alum or flour of sulphur. Make a pill of one-fourth assafoetida and baking soda, in which add a little pulverized mandrake root; make four or six pills about the size of a marble. Continue removing scab as long as it accumulates, each day, and give pills night and morning with applications of salt, sulphur, or alum.

#### FEVERS.

#### CAUSES.

The principal periods that fowls are subject to fevers are during hatching, and at the commencement of the laying seasons; at these times the heat of the body is so increased that it is perceptible to

the touch. Fighting frequently causes fever which sometimes prove fatal.

#### SYMPTOMS.

An increased circulation of the blood, excessive heat of the body, and restlessness.

#### REMEDY.

Give a dessertspoonful of citrate of magnesia, together with ten drops of nitre to half a pint of drinking water.

#### SWELLING OF THE HEAD.

##### CAUSES.

This malady is caused by musty food, putrid water, or general disturbance of indigestion.

##### SYMPTOMS.

General mopishness, and swelling of the head, with fever.

##### REMEDY.

Same as for fevers.

#### APOPLEXY, VERTIGO, AND EPILEPSY.

##### CAUSES.

Undue flow of blood to the head, which is usually caused by overfeeding.

##### SYMPTOMS.

Running around in a circle, or fluttering about, with apparently but little control of the muscular actions.

##### REMEDY.

Bleed from the large vein under the wing; cut the vein lengthwise with a lancet or sharp knife; also

give an aperient or a tablespoonful of castor oil to a large fowl, or a teaspoonful to a small one.

#### PARALYSIS.

##### CAUSES.

An affection of the spinal cord, brought about by an over-stimulating diet.

##### SYMPTOMS.

The inability to move the limbs; care must be taken not to confound this disease with leg weakness, which will be referred to hereafter.

##### REMEDY.

Give an aperient same as for apoplexy.

#### CANKER OF THE MOUTH, COMB, HEAD, OR EYES.

##### CAUSES.

Badly housed, uncleanness, musty or unwholesome food.

##### SYMPTOMS.

The breaking out of cancerous running sores in the head, mouth, or throat, accompanied with a watery discharge from the eyes, and a mucous secretion in the mouth and throat.

##### REMEDY.

Wash the head and eyes, and swab out the mouth and throat with diluted Labarraque's solution containing one-half water, or remove ulcers with a quill, and apply nitrate of silver, or powdered borax to the places left bare, to be repeated twice a day, also mix a teaspoonful of powdered sulphur in the feed.

## SORE EYES.

## CAUSES.

Overheating, dust, dampness, or climatic changes.

## SYMPTOMS.

An apparent watering of the eyes, which, if not attended to timely, will turn into ulcerations.

## REMEDY.

Give sulphur in feed, and wash the eyes with diluted Labarraque's solution.



TESTING SPUR.



## RECIPES.

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### CHICKEN CHOLERA.

Alum two ounces, resin two ounces, copperas two ounces, sulphur two ounces, cayenne pepper two ounces; pulverize, and then mix three tablespoonfuls of the powder with one quart of corn meal, and dampen for use. This quantity is sufficient for twelve chickens, and may be used either as a preventive or as a cure. For the first it should be given once or twice a week.

### ANOTHER CHOLERA CURE.

After repeated experiments, hyposulphite of soda if given with one-half its weight of powdered mandrake root is the best remedy known. Give the mixture in teaspoonful doses twice a day, and begin its use as soon as the symptoms appear. When a fowl has the cholera it drinks ravenously, shows a nervous, anxious look, and the droppings are greenish in color, changing to white. In the first stages a few grains of copperas make an excellent stimulant, but the hyposulphite of soda should be relied upon.

### GAPES.

As soon as you discover any signs among your chickens—which is a small red worm in the windpipe—give them camphor in their drinking vessels,

strong enough to let them taste the camphor. If any get the disease badly before you discover it, force a pill of gum camphor about the size of a small pea down the windpipe, and the fumes of that dose will destroy the worm. No kind of worms can live in camphor, hence camphor must be a powerful vermifuge.

A teaspoonful of turpentine in a pint of corn meal made into a dough with water, is one of the best remedies for gapes.

#### WEAK LEGS.

If your chicks are taken with weak legs and hobble about, give them a warm meal of cooked potatoes and meal or bran; in this mix plenty of black pepper and some brandy; after these continue supplying them with some scraps of meat, as this is what they lack to grow bone strength and take on muscle. If you feed ground bone there is no danger of this complaint, although it is not always handy to secure bone as desired.

#### ROUP.

One teaspoonful of each—tincture of iron, red pepper, ginger, saffron, chlorate of potash, and powdered rhubarb; add to this one-fourth ounce of asafoetida and the same amount of hyposulphite of soda. Moisten, mix well, and make into a pill the size of a small marble; give one morning and night. Wash the nostrils and face with a solution of water with three drops of carbolic acid to one gill of water, hav-

ing added one teaspoonful of table salt. Repeat wash each day.

A mixture of one part turpentine and one of castor oil is excellent for roup, canker and chicken pox. Give each fowl ten drops, and inject in the nostrils also.

The Douglas mixture is one pound of copperas, one gill of sulphuric acid and two gallons of water. The acid may be left out if preferred. Put a teaspoonful into the drinking water whenever it is changed.

A good tonic for weak, debilitated fowls is three parts ground cinnamon, ten of ginger, one of gentian, one of saffron, and ten of carbonate of iron.

For light cases of roup give a pill made of equal parts of cayenne pepper and prepared chalk.

#### PIP.

The pip is known by a fowl making a short sneeze or cough. In most cases there are no signs of a cold or running at the nose. It is one type of a cold affecting the bronchial tubes and causing a dry, horny substance or coating on the tongue. It is also liable from indigestion. Scrape the substance off the tongue; give one-half teaspoonful of wild cherry and tar, made by taking one ounce of cherry and adding three drops of pine tar; shake well; dose twice a day, and fill the mouth with flour of sulphur.

#### CHICKEN POX.

This is a hard and troublesome disease, and the right and only way to cure it is by using the hatchet:

yet many times a case may be cured by burning the white festers or ulcer with lunarcaustic, greasing with salve made of one ounce of vaseline and ten drops of carbolic acid; give the fowl powders or pills made of hyposulphite of soda one-fourth part, mandrake and dock root equal parts; pills size of a marble.

#### CARE OF WOUNDED FOWLS.

##### TREATMENT.

If fowls are injured prompt attention should be given to prevent the fever which follows the injury. The head should be washed in luke warm water, using a soft sponge, carefully removing the blood; grease the parts affected with turpentine and sweet oil. Remove the blood and feathers from the throat and mouth, and give a tablespoonful of Catawba wine and rock candy. Give butter rolled into a pill the size of a marble; this tends to remove the blood and feathers in the throat, and serves as a slight physic. For a few days food of a soft nature should be given; also a small quantity of wine and rock candy should be placed in the drinking water.

Where fowls, either old or young, have been badly injured in the pit the closest attention is necessary. If the injury occurs in the winter season, warm quarters must be provided to avoid taking cold. As a general thing fowls injured with the steels more readily recuperate than those torn with the naked spur. The second day give soft food and continue

as above until fowl shows signs of being talkative, when solid food can be given.

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### SOME HINTS.

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Cross breeds are found to be very safe in many cases, yet not always good game. Some crosses make large, coarse fowl—called strainers.

It is a poor plan to breed from stock you know nothing about—well tried breeds or strains are the best.

When raising Games for the pit special attention should be given. Do not allow some one to make a statement for you, but be particular.

Some cockers want a Game cock for breeding to set well on his legs, be broad at the shoulders, have strong wings and tough wing feathers.

A cock that matures at 6-0, should at the age of five months not reach more than 4-0 at the most.

Something of an idea of the fighting qualities of a strain can be learned by the fighting qualities of the hens in their often brushes with each other.

A cock that gets down or comes on his hocks when fighting is worthless.

Do not expect to use fine bred pit cocks for naked heel fighters, they are not expected to do that kind of fighting.

Good naked heel fighters are best bred by Oriental crossing them in various ways. Jap blood is one much used.



## INDEX.

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Games and Gameness. ....         | 4             |
| Typical Pit Cock, ....           | 6             |
| Old English Game Fowl, ....      | 9             |
| Cocking, ....                    | 13            |
| Cocking in Cumberland, ....      | 22            |
| Art of Cockfighting, ...         | 34            |
| The Two Kinds, ....              | 38            |
| Pit Game Standard, ....          | 41            |
| Ideal Pit Game, ....             | 46            |
| Breeding Stock, ....             | 49            |
| Breeding In and In, ....         | 51            |
| Breeding for the Pit, ....       | 55            |
| Selecting Brood Stock, ....      | 58            |
| Care of Breeding Stock, ....     | 63            |
| Time to Mate, ....               | 65            |
| Care of Eggs, ....               | 65            |
| Feeding Breeders, ....           | 67            |
| Sitting Hens, ....               | 69            |
| Rearing Young Games, ....        | 70            |
| Power of Sex, ....               | 74            |
| Sex by Eggs, ....                | 77            |
| Color Crossing, ....             | 78            |
| Dubbing, ....                    | 83            |
| Trimming for the Pit, ....       | 97            |
| Safe Walks, ....                 | 99            |
| Testing Games, ....              | 100           |
| Form of Articles for Mains, .... | 102, 104, 106 |
| Rules for Matching, ....         | 105           |
| Rules for Heeling, ....          | 110           |
| Conditioning, ....               | 116-177       |
| Sick Fowl, ....                  | 178-184       |
| Recipes, ....                    | 185-189       |











